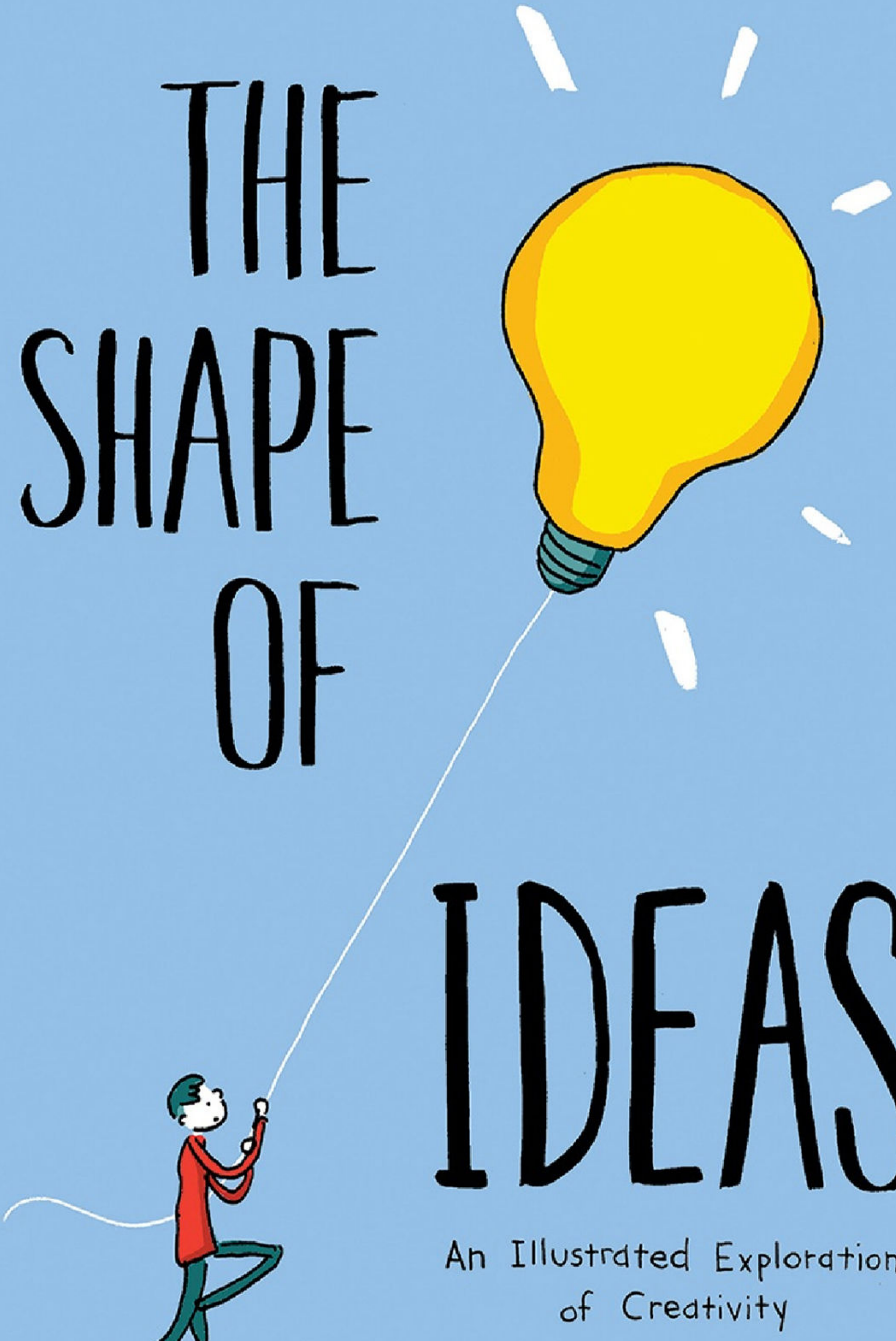
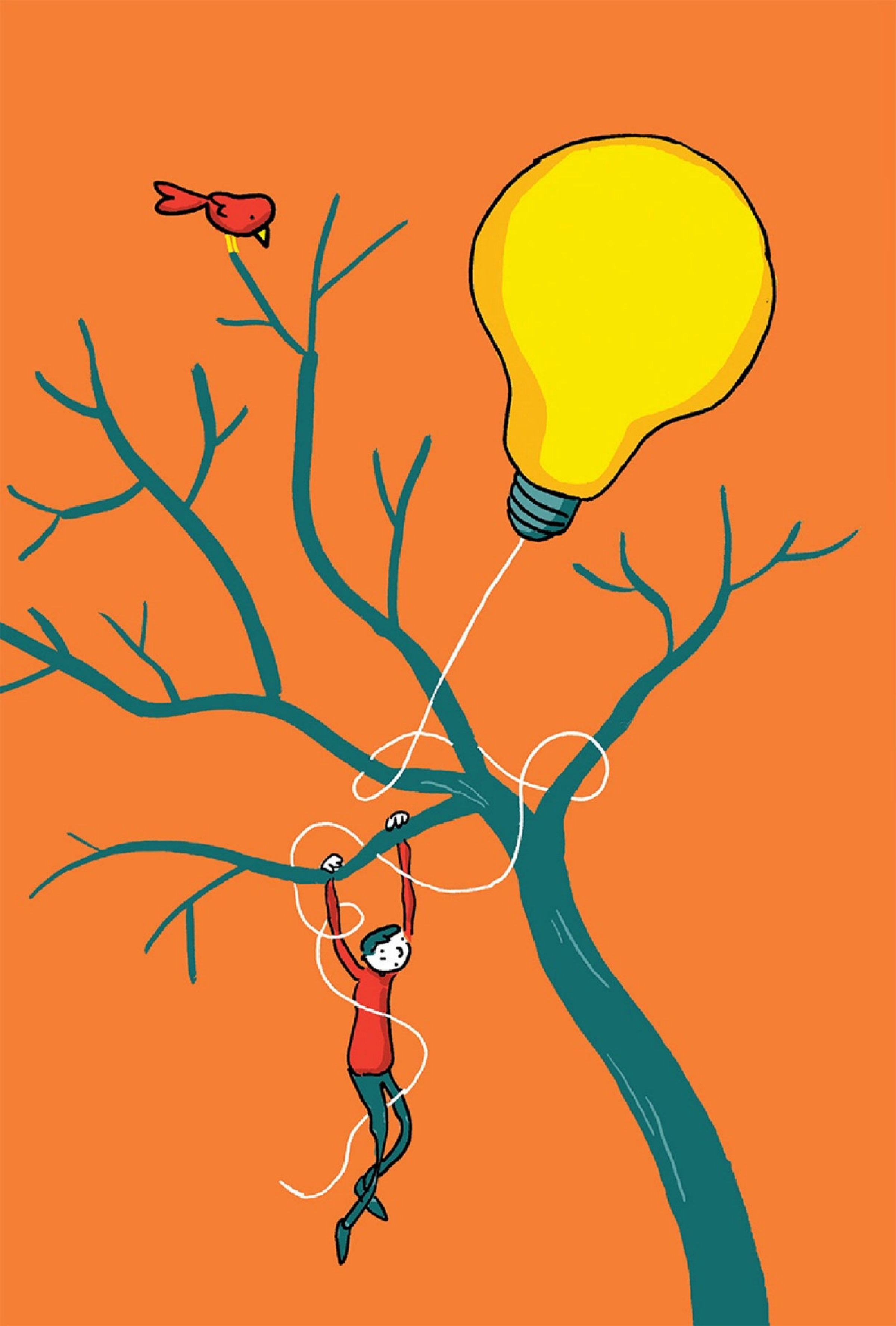


THE SHAPE OF IDEAS

An Illustrated Exploration of Creativity

GRANT SNIDER

Creator of Incidental Comics



GRANT SNIDER

THE SHAPE OF IDEAS

AN ILLUSTRATED
EXPLORATION
OF CREATIVITY

ABRAMS COMICARTS • NEW YORK

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The Southampton Review: "An Incantation," "Creative Housekeeping," "My Ideas," and "My Process."

The Kansas City Star: "The Conspiracy of Colors," "The Creative Process," "Cycles of Life," "Daydream," "Design Like Nobody's Watching," "Draw Like You've Never Been Taught," "The Elephants of Typography," "Good Ideas, Bad Ideas," "How to Get Ideas," "The Internal Decathlon," "Life Drawing," "Morning," "Painting for Non-Majors," "Paths to Success," "Play Each Day Like Jazz," "Sketchbooks of the Pros," and "Theories of Autumn."

Red Lemon Club: "Genius Is" and "Rules for Freelancers."

Medium.com: "American Art," "How to Look at Art," and "Self Portrait."

The Fred Rogers Center: "How to Grow Imagination."

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For more about *The Shape of Ideas* and Grant Snider, visit incidentalcomics.com

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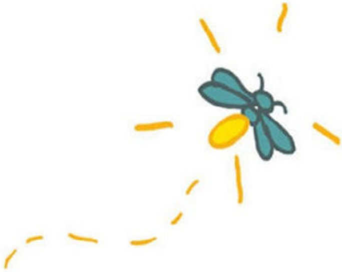
abramsbooks.com

This book is dedicated to Anna, Trent, and Logan.
May your ideas shape the future,
and may you never run out of crayons.



An enormous thank-you to my first readers: Kayla, for supporting, encouraging, and tolerating me in every part of life—including the creative process—and Gavin, for being my second brain and helping make most every comic better.

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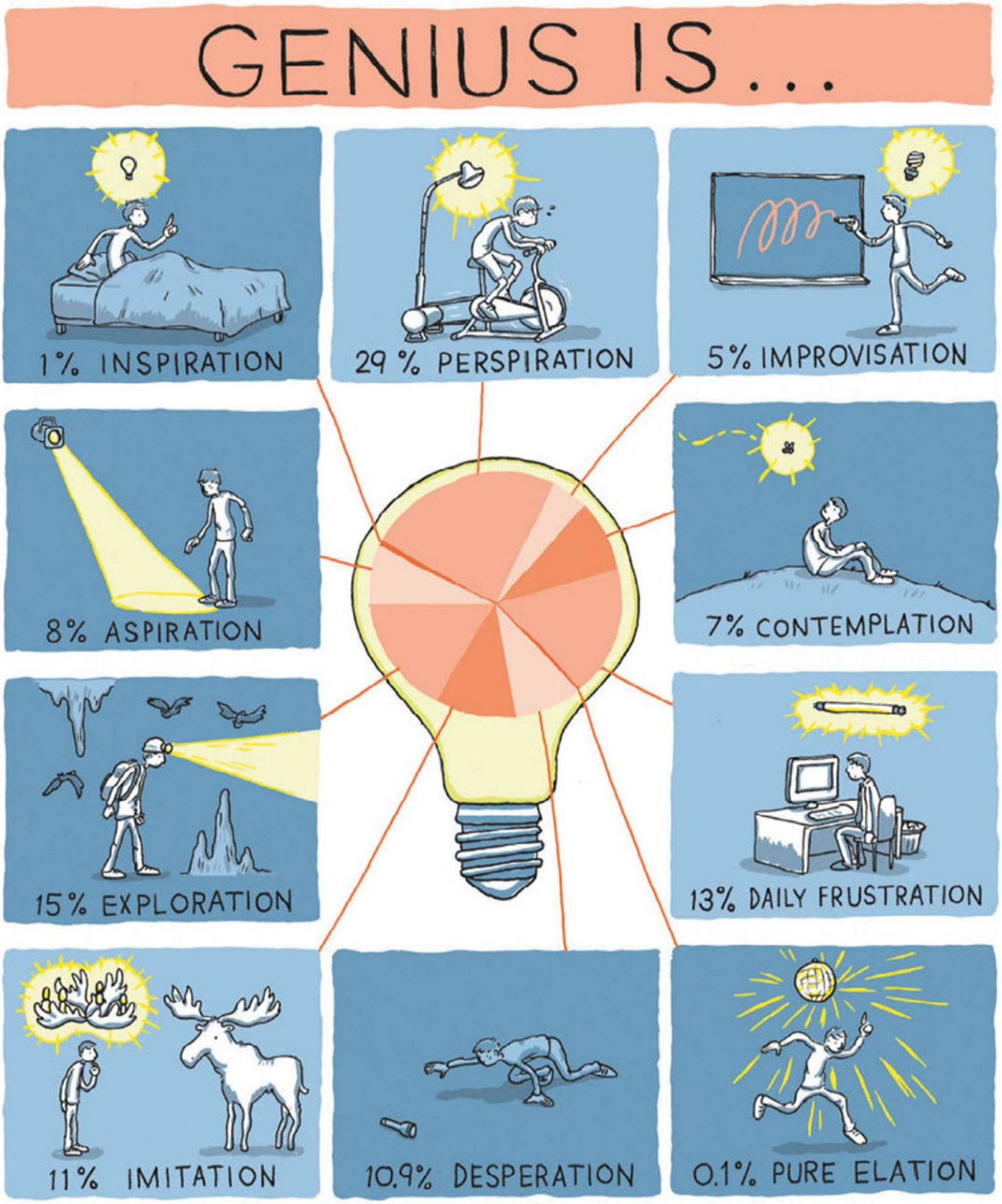

GENIUS IS . . .
1% INSPIRATION
29 % PERSPIRATION
5% IMPROVISATION
8% ASPIRATION
7% CONTEMPLATION
15% EXPLORATION
13% DAILY FRUSTRATION
11% IMITATION
10.9% DESPERATION
0.1% PURE ELATION

Dear Reader,

If you have picked up this book, chances are you're a seeker of ideas. Perhaps you search for them in the shade of a tree in a park on a spring afternoon. Perhaps you wait for them in the shower, until your toes and fingertips shrivel like raisins. Perhaps they wake you up at night and compel you to write at your kitchen table until dawn, leaving you exhausted and useless the next day.

Maybe your loved ones accuse you of spending too much time inside your own head. Maybe your friends mock you for carrying a notebook to bars, restaurants, and children's birthday parties. Maybe you have been glared at in class or during an important meeting for aimlessly doodling on scrap paper.

Do you sometimes feel guilty for seeking creative ideas at the expense of personal relationships or professional success? Do you dream of one day discovering a bottomless well of creativity, so you will never search in desperation for a new idea? Do you occasionally fantasize about giving up the search for ideas altogether and living a life of blissful noncreativity? Do you fear that one day there might not be another idea?

This book will not help you solve these problems. And that bottomless well of creativity? It doesn't exist.

But do not despair. Every comic in this book was once a blank page. (Perhaps one or two should have stayed that way.) Since I began drawing Incidental Comics way back in 2009, my goal has been to create at least one full-page comic strip per week. I often keep a sketchbook with me to capture stray ideas that float by. Most mornings before work I guzzle coffee, sit at my drawing table, and try to shape these unformed ideas into something worth showing the world.

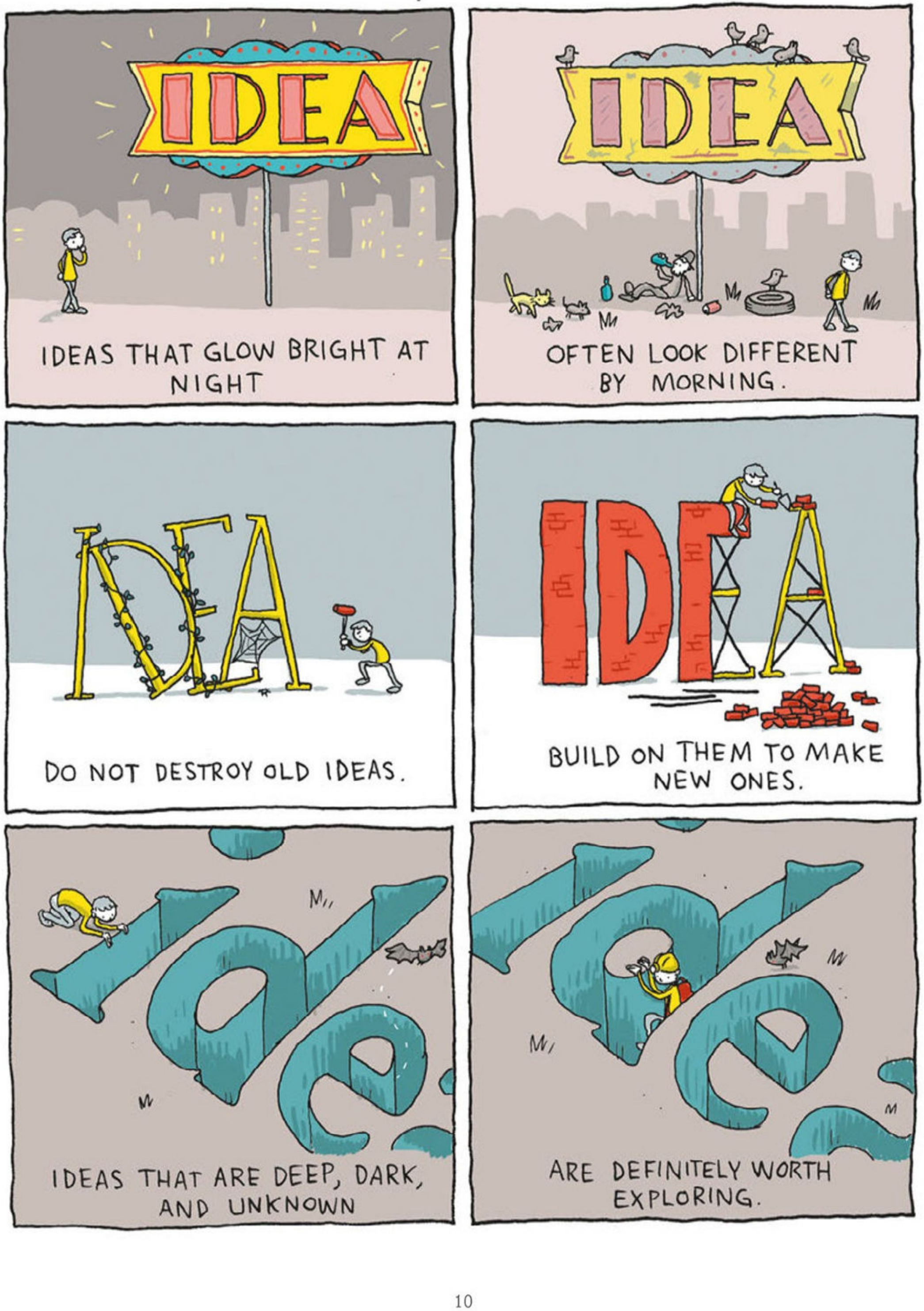
I hope this book will provide some insight into the creative process. I hope you can relate to the joys and pitfalls of creativity. Most of all, I hope this book encourages you in your own search for ideas.

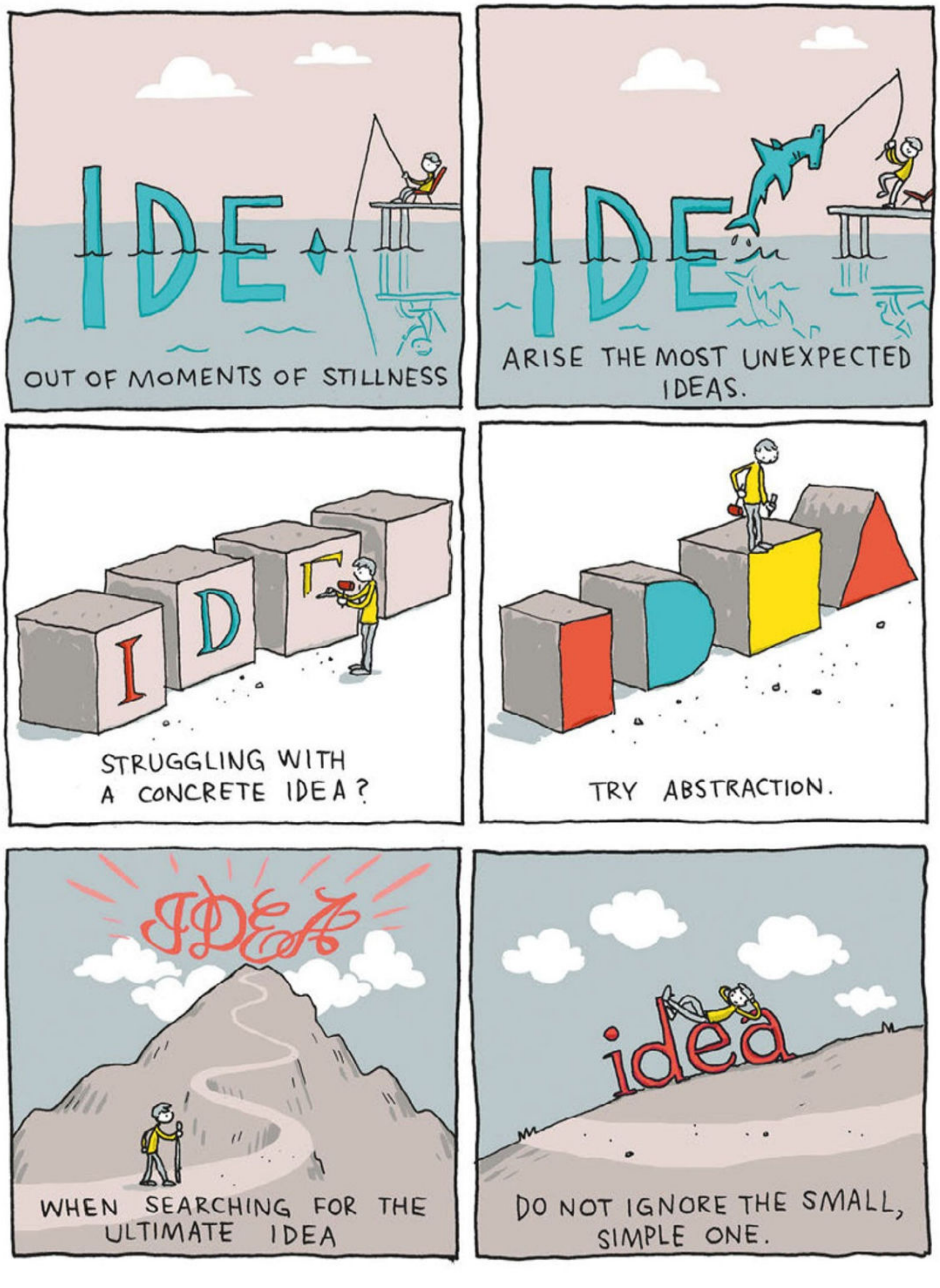
Grant Snider

Grant Snider
Wichita, Kansas
August 2016

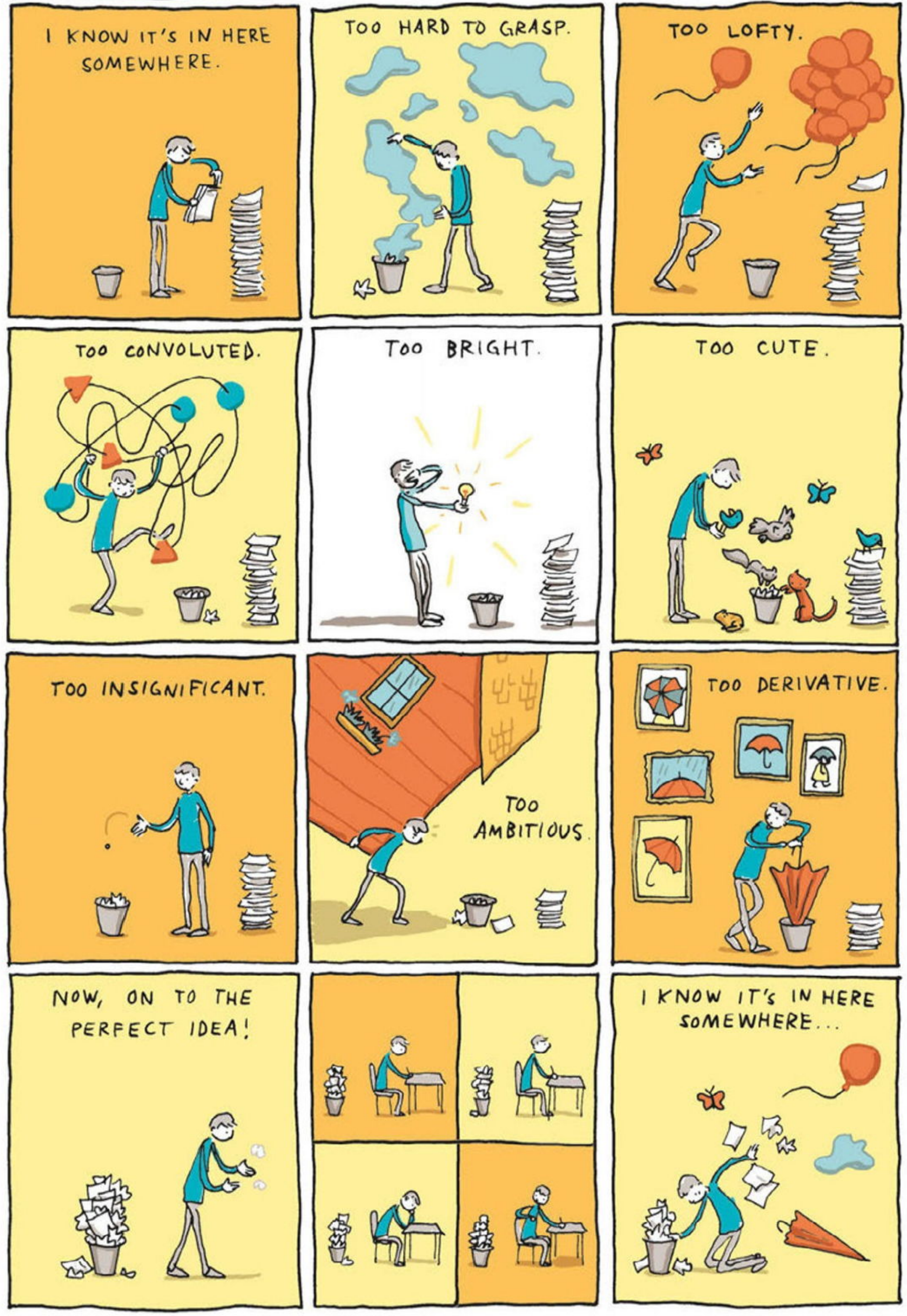
INSPIRATION

the shape of ideas

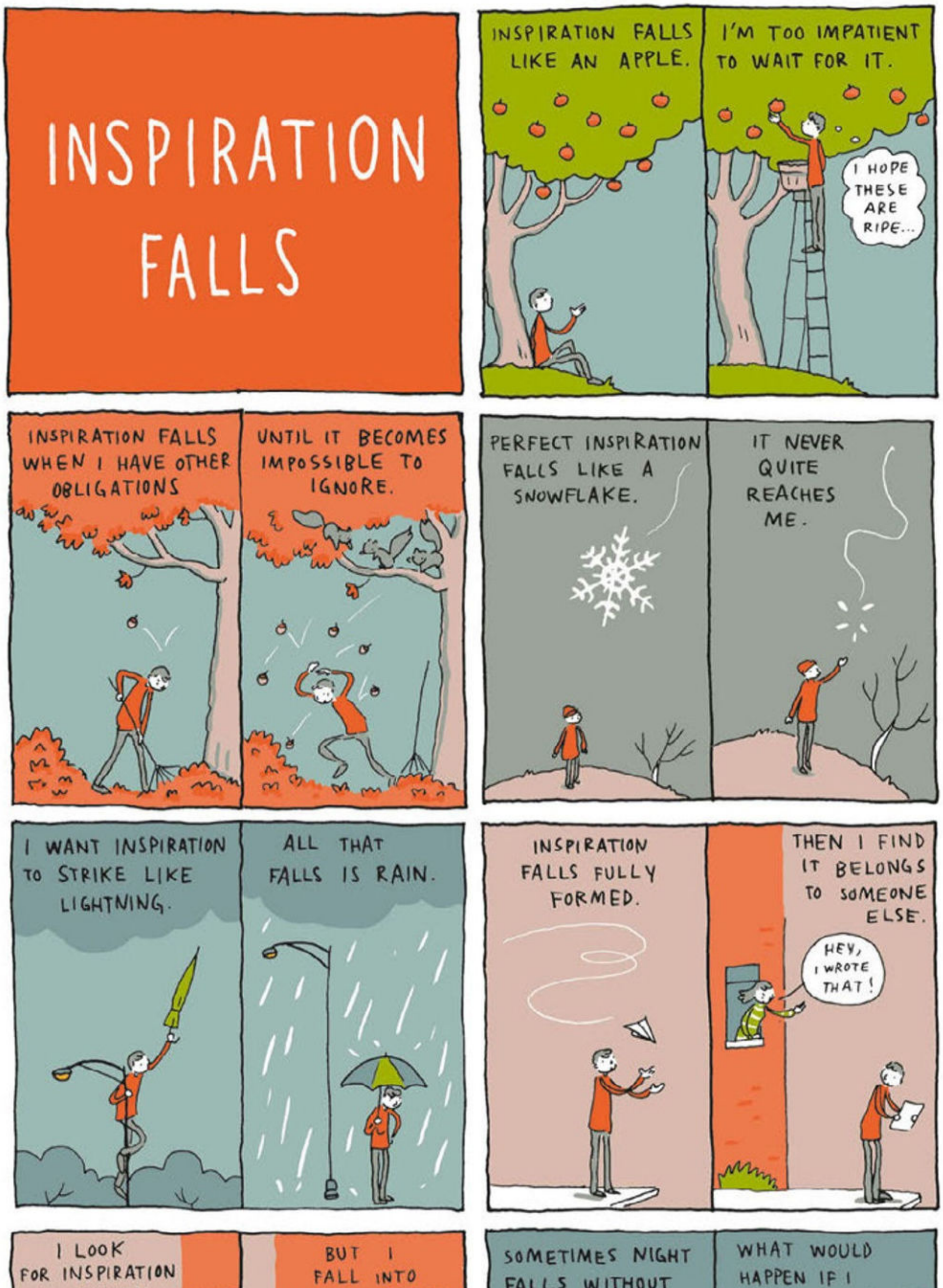

IDEA
IDEAS THAT GLOW BRIGHT AT NIGHT
IDEA
OFTEN LOOK DIFFERENT BY MORNING.
IDEA
DO NOT DESTROY OLD IDEAS.
IDEA
BUILD ON THEM TO MAKE NEW ONES.
idea
IDEAS THAT ARE DEEP, DARK, AND UNKNOWN
idea
ARE DEFINITELY WORTH EXPLORING.


IDE
OUT OF MOMENTS OF STILLNESS
IDE
ARISE THE MOST UNEXPECTED IDEAS.
ID
STRUGGLING WITH A CONCRETE IDEA?
TRY ABSTRACTION.
IDEA
WHEN SEARCHING FOR THE ULTIMATE IDEA
idea
DO NOT IGNORE THE SMALL, SIMPLE ONE.

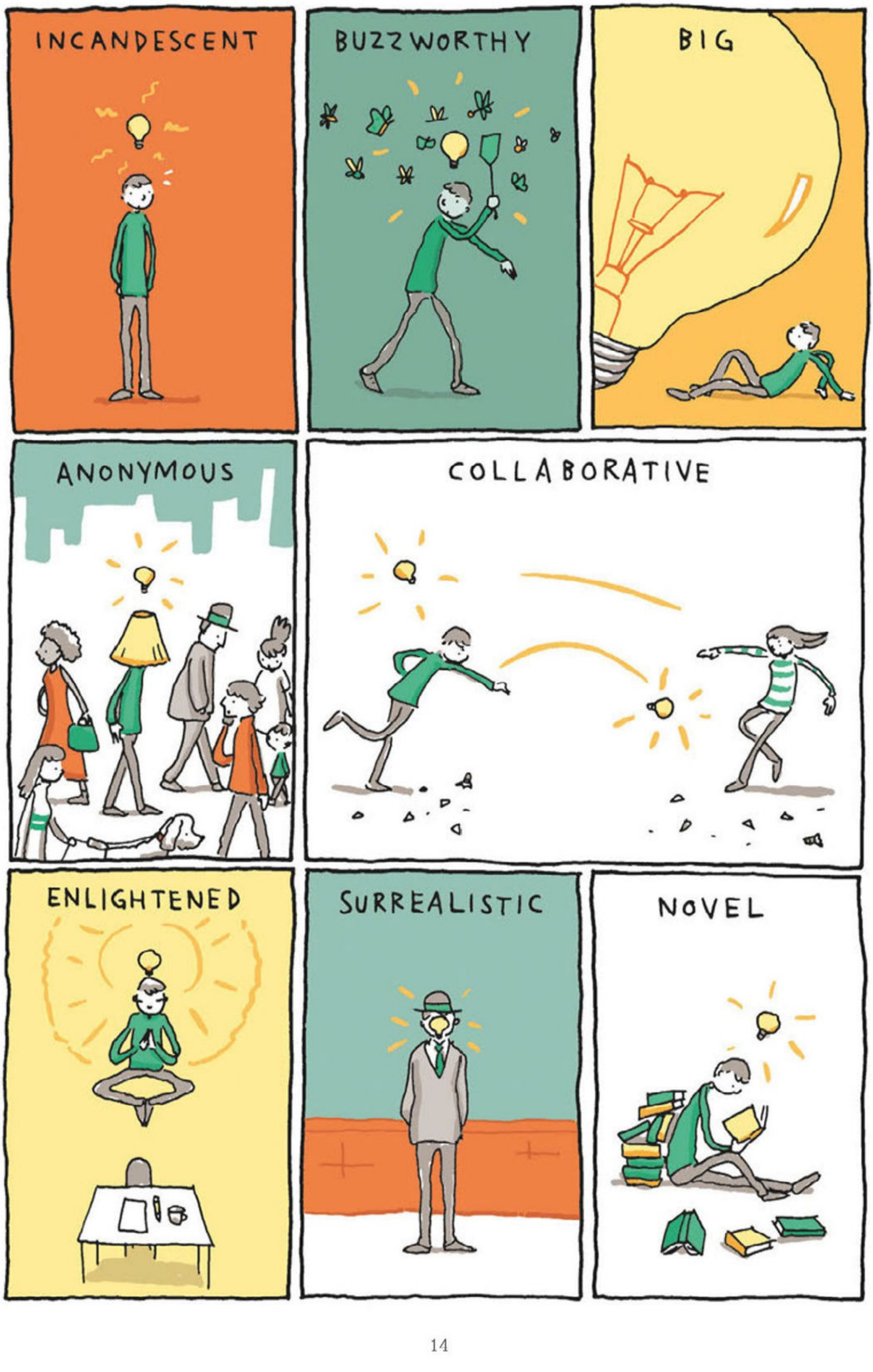
the perfect idea

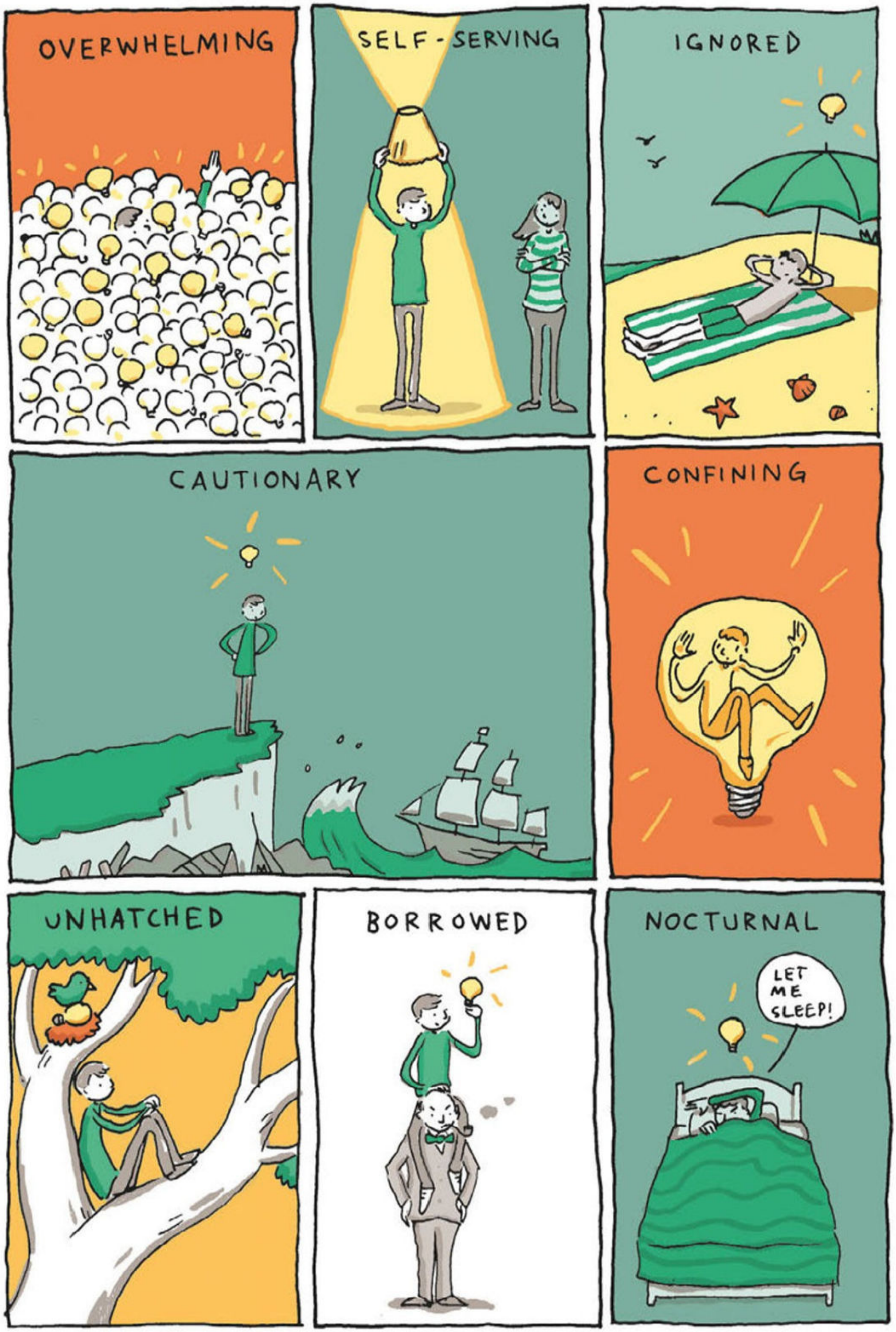

I KNOW IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE.
TOO HARD TO GRASP.
TOO LOFTY.
TOO CONVOLUTED.
TOO BRIGHT.
TOO CUTE.
TOO INSIGNIFICANT.
TOO AMBITIOUS.
TOO DERIVATIVE.
NOW, ON TO THE PERFECT IDEA!
I KNOW IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE...

INSPIRATION FALLS

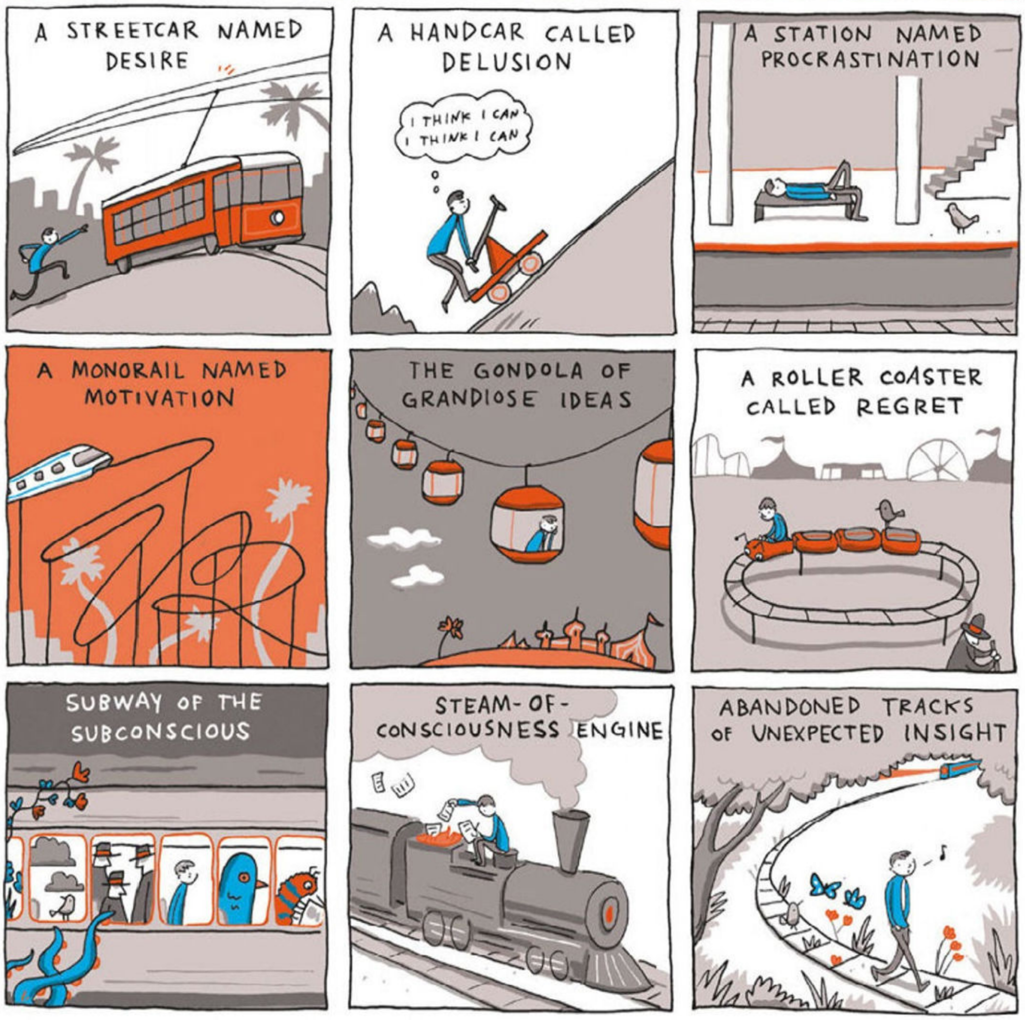

INSPIRATION FALLS LIKE AN APPLE.
I'M TOO IMPATIENT TO WAIT FOR IT.
I HOPE THESE ARE RIPE...
INSPIRATION FALLS WHEN I HAVE OTHER OBLIGATIONS
UNTIL IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE.
PERFECT INSPIRATION FALLS LIKE A SNOWFLAKE.
IT NEVER QUITE REACHES ME.
I WANT INSPIRATION TO STRIKE LIKE LIGHTNING.
ALL THAT FALLS IS RAIN.
INSPIRATION FALLS FULLY FORMED.
THEN I FIND IT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE.
HEY, I WROTE THAT!
I LOOK FOR INSPIRATION IN OBVIOUS PLACES.
BUT I FALL INTO IT BY SURPRISE.
SOMETIMES NIGHT FALLS WITHOUT ANY INSPIRATION.
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I STAYED UP LATER?

MY IDEAS

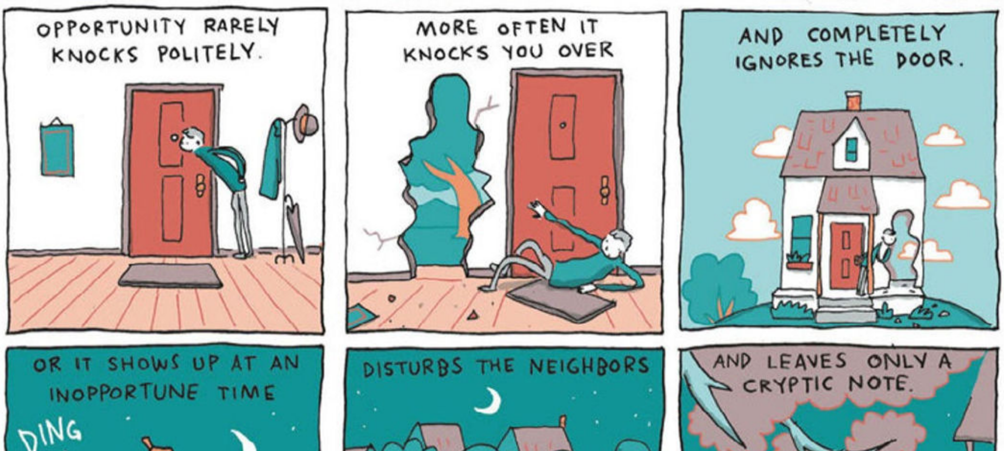

INCANDESCENT
BUZZWORTHY
BIG
ANONYMOUS
COLLABORATIVE
ENLIGHTENED
SURREALISTIC
NOVEL

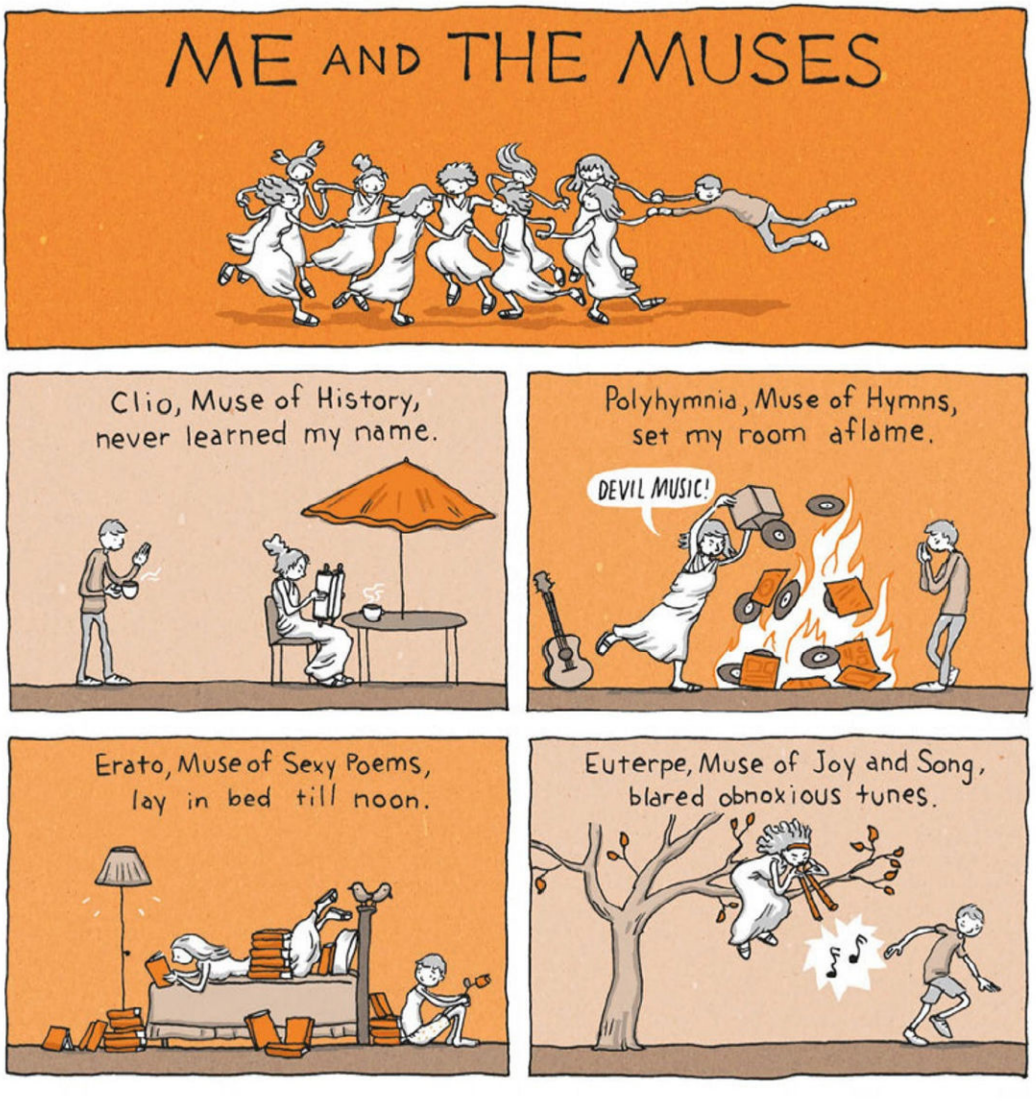

OVERWHELMING
SELF-SERVING
IGNORED
CAUTIONARY
CONFINING
UNHATCHED
BORROWED
NOCTURNAL
LET ME SLEEP!

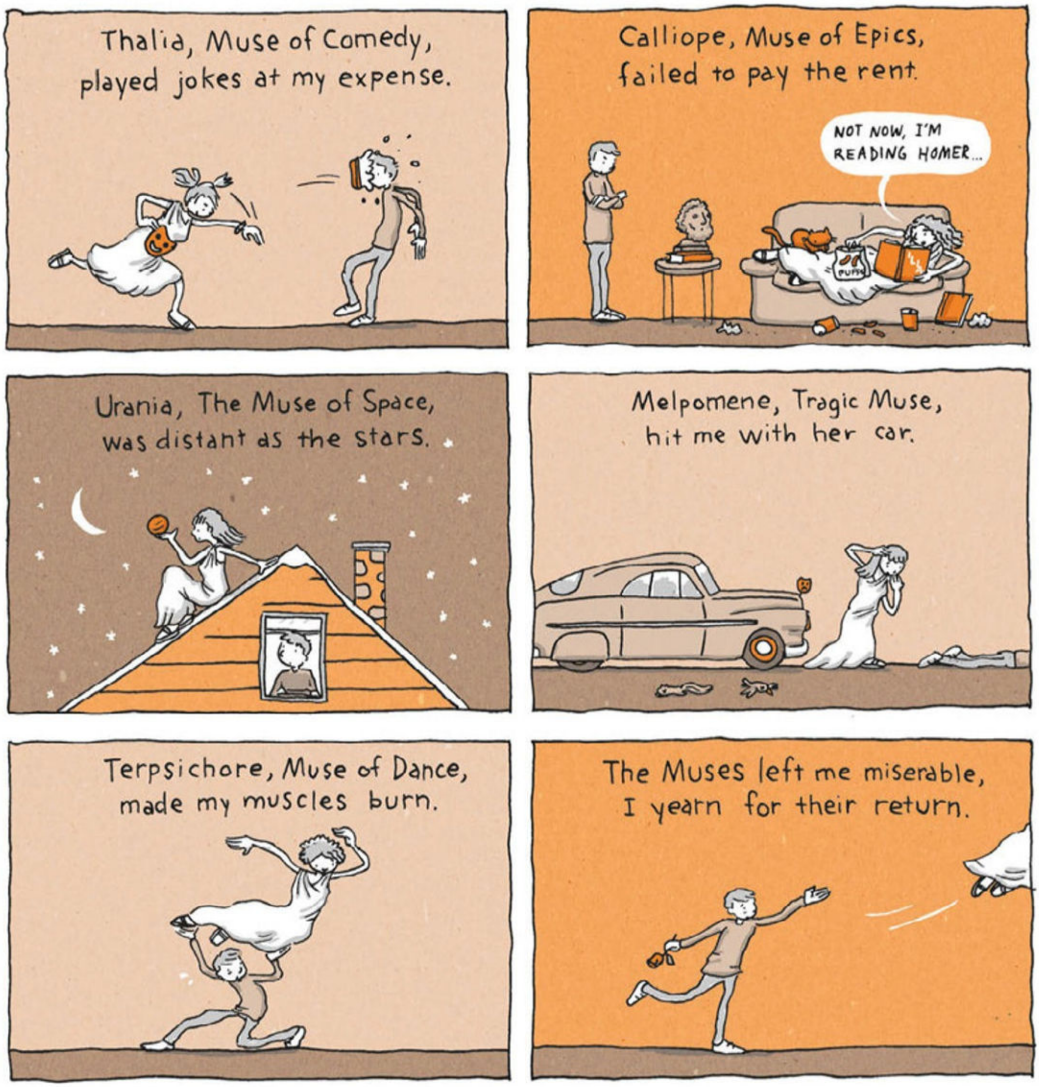
TRAINS OF THOUGHT


A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE
A HANDCAR CALLED DELUSION
I THINK I CAN I THINK I CAN
A STATION NAMED PROCRASTINATION
A MONORAIL NAMED MOTIVATION
THE GONDOLA OF GRANDIOSE IDEAS
A ROLLER COASTER CALLED REGRET
SUBWAY OF THE SUBCONSCIOUS
STEAM-OF-CONSCIOUSNESS ENGINE
ABANDONED TRACKS OF UNEXPECTED INSIGHT

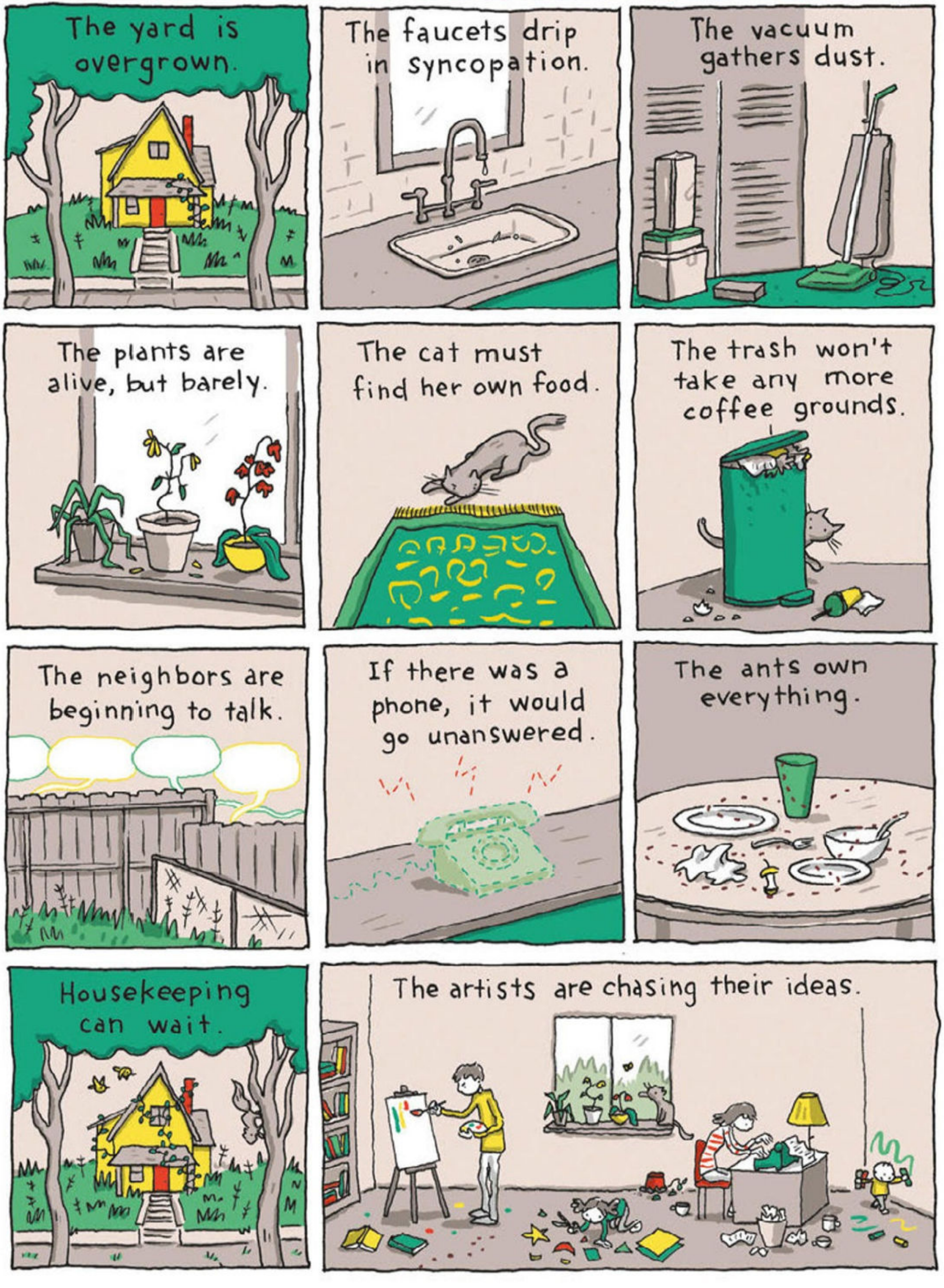
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS


OPPORTUNITY RARELY KNOCKS POLITELY.
MORE OFTEN IT KNOCKS YOU OVER
AND COMPLETELY IGNORES THE DOOR.
OR IT SHOWS UP AT AN INOPPORTUNE TIME
DING
DONG
DING
DONG
DING
DONG
DISTURBS THE NEIGHBORS
AND LEAVES ONLY A CRYPTIC NOTE.
SORRY I MISSED YOU! WILL RETURN BETWEEN 1 AM – 11 PM M-F
BUT IF OPPORTUNITY FINDS AN OPENING
IT LETS ITSELF IN
AND CHOOSES WHOEVER CAN SEIZE IT.

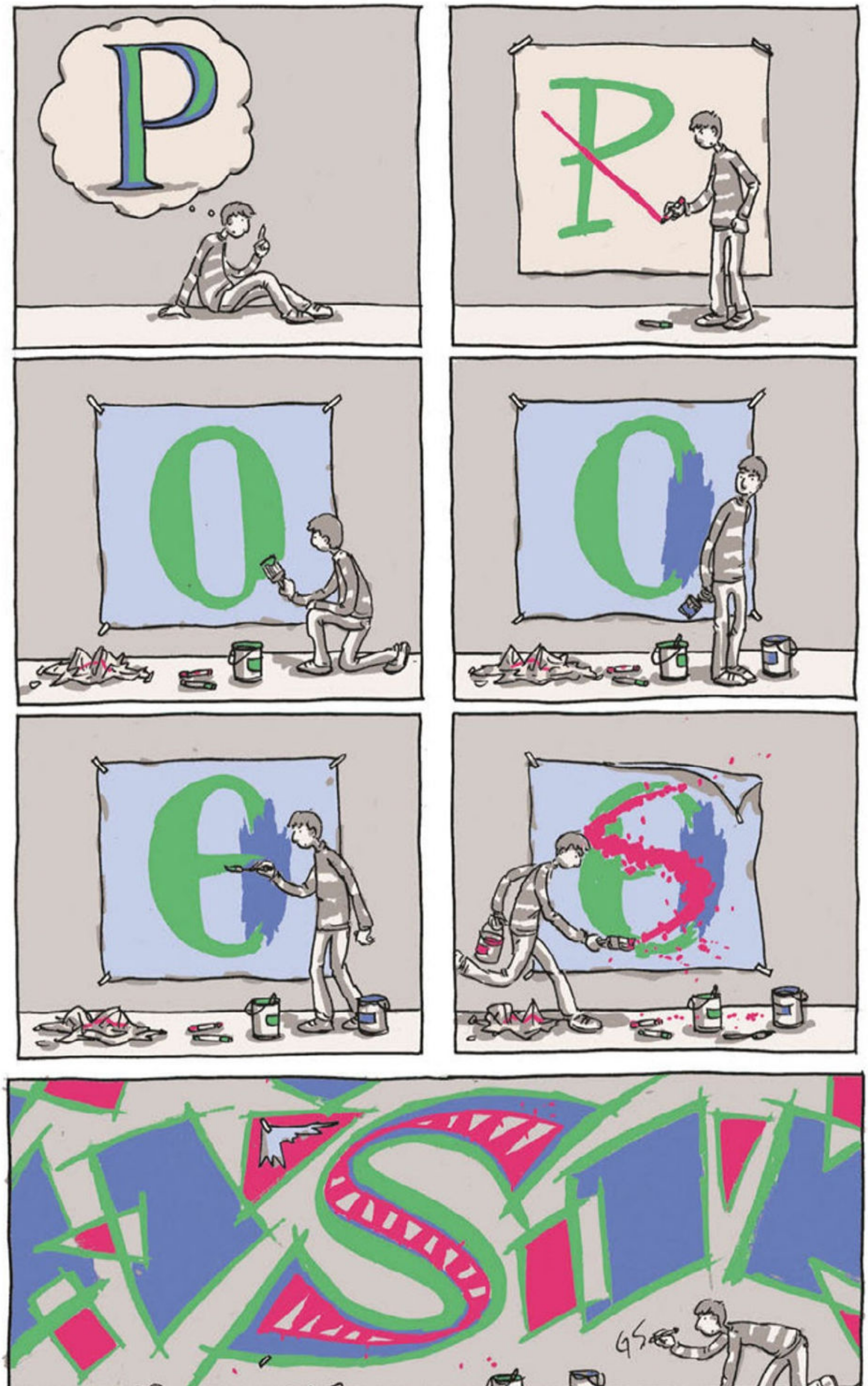

ME AND THE MUSES
Clio, Muse of History, never learned my name.
Polyhymnia, Muse of Hymns, set my room aflame.
DEVIL MUSIC!
Erato, Muse of Sexy Poems, lay in bed till noon.
Euterpe, Muse of Joy and Song, blared obnoxious tunes.


Thalia, Muse of Comedy, played jokes at my expense.
Calliope, Muse of Epics, failed to pay the rent.
NOT NOW, I'M READING HOMER...
PUFFS
Urania, The Muse of Space, was distant as the stars.
Melpomene, Tragic Muse, hit me with her car.
Terpsichore, Muse of Dance, made my muscles burn.
The Muses left me miserable, I yearn for their return.

CREATIVE HOUSEKEEPING

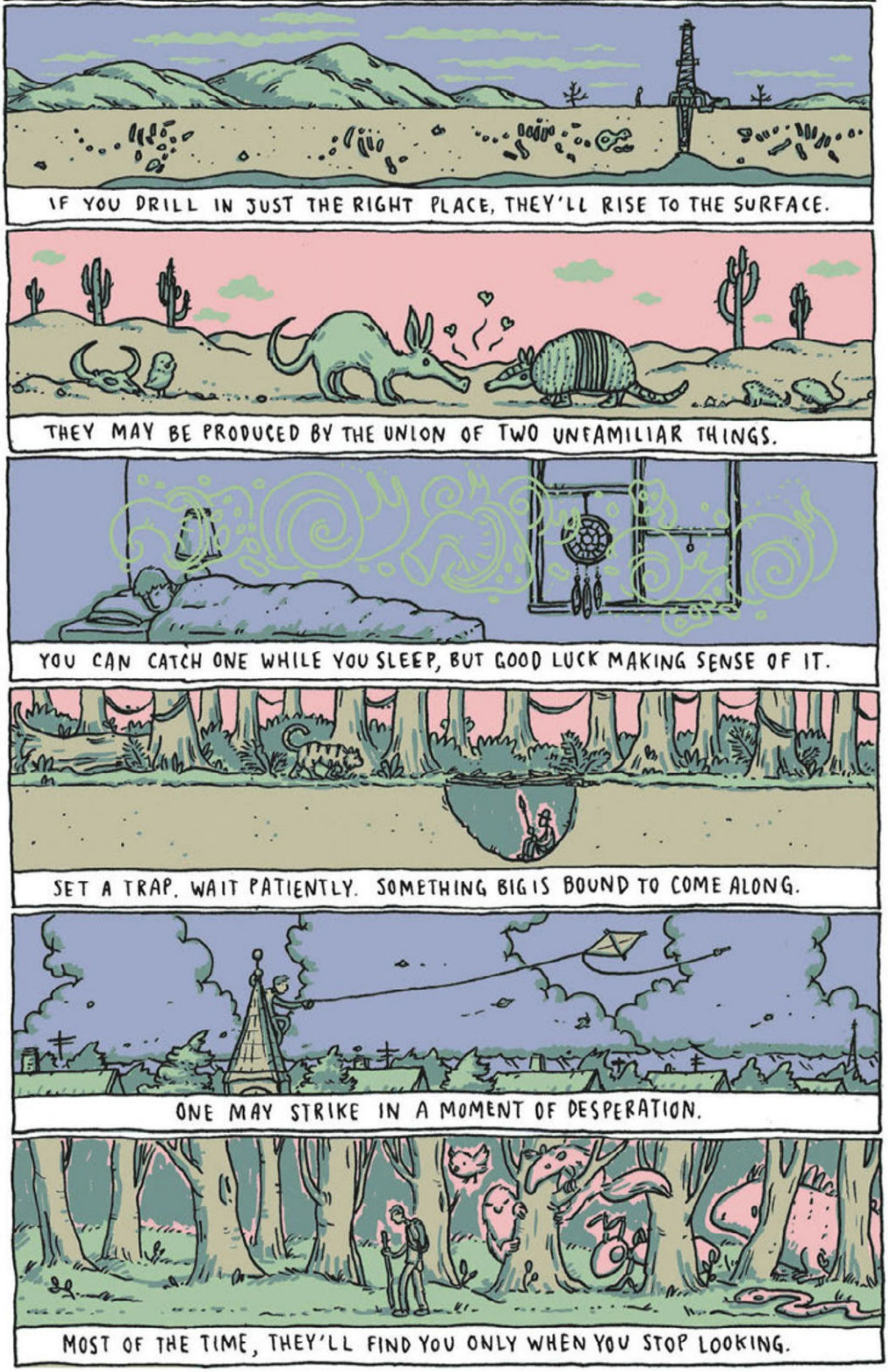

The yard is overgrown.
The faucets drip in syncopation.
The vacuum gathers dust.
The plants are alive, but barely.
The cat must find her own food.
The trash won't take any more coffee grounds.
The neighbors are beginning to talk.
If there was a phone, it would go unanswered.
The ants own everything.
Housekeeping can wait.
The artists are chasing their ideas.

THE CREATIVE PROCESS



PERSPIRATION

HOW TO GET IDEAS



IF YOU DRILL IN JUST THE RIGHT PLACE, THEY'LL RISE TO THE SURFACE.

THEY MAY BE PRODUCED BY THE UNION OF TWO UNFAMILIAR THINGS.

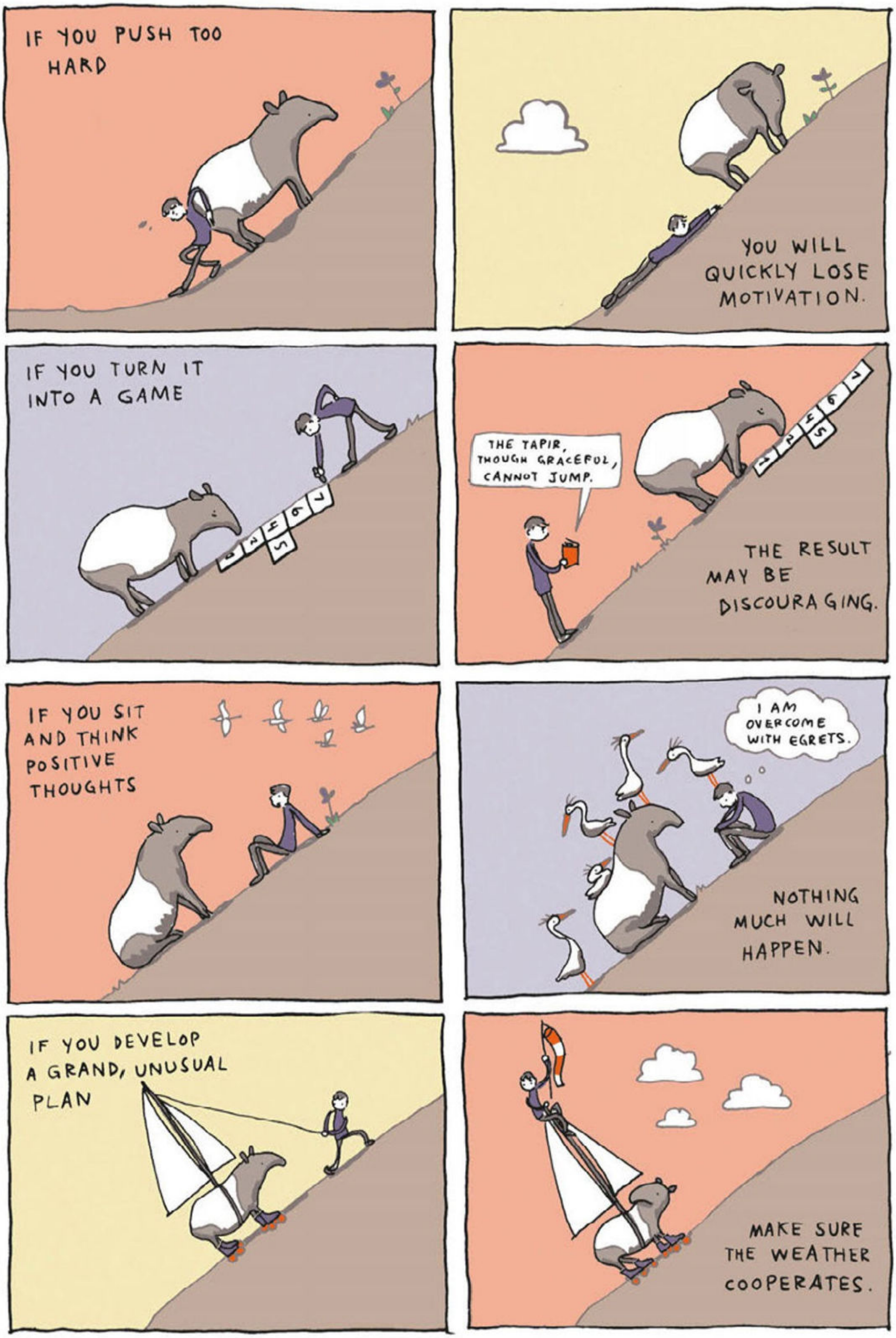
YOU CAN CATCH ONE WHILE YOU SLEEP, BUT GOOD LUCK MAKING SENSE OF IT.

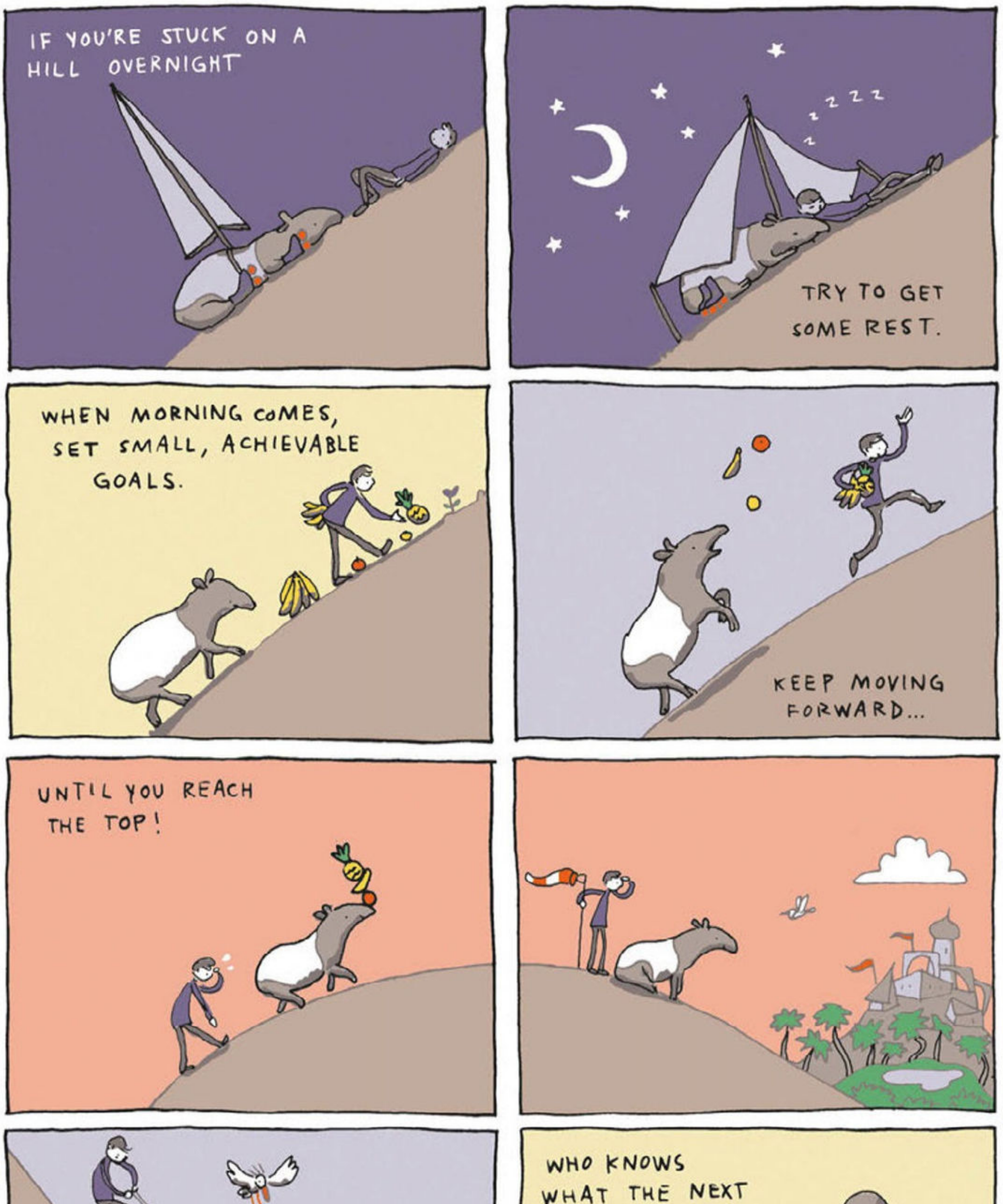
SET A TRAP. WAIT PATIENTLY. SOMETHING BIG IS BOUND TO COME ALONG.

ONE MAY STRIKE IN A MOMENT OF DESPERATION.

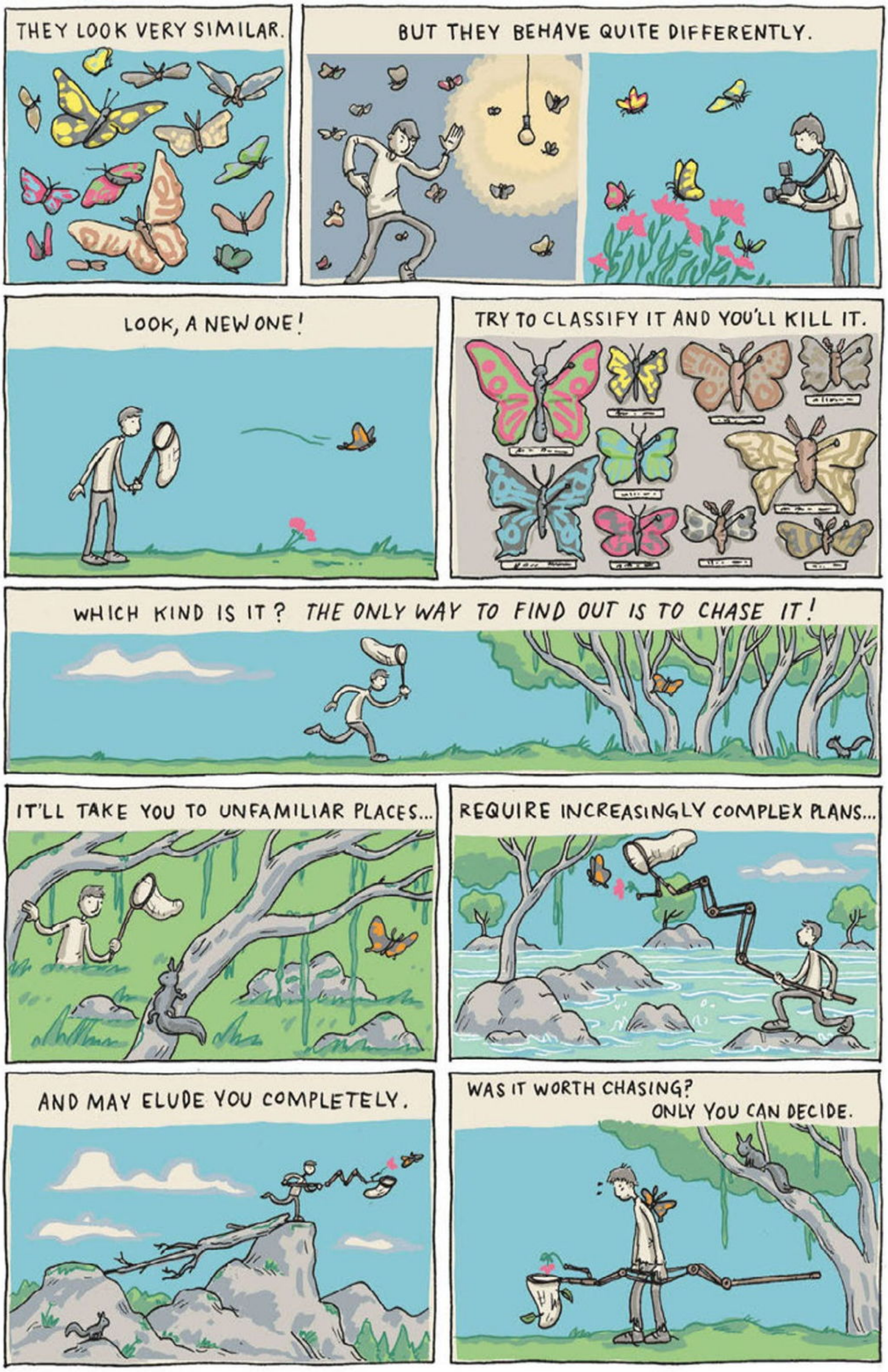
MOST OF THE TIME, THEY'LL FIND YOU ONLY WHEN YOU STOP LOOKING.

HOW TO CLIMB A HILL

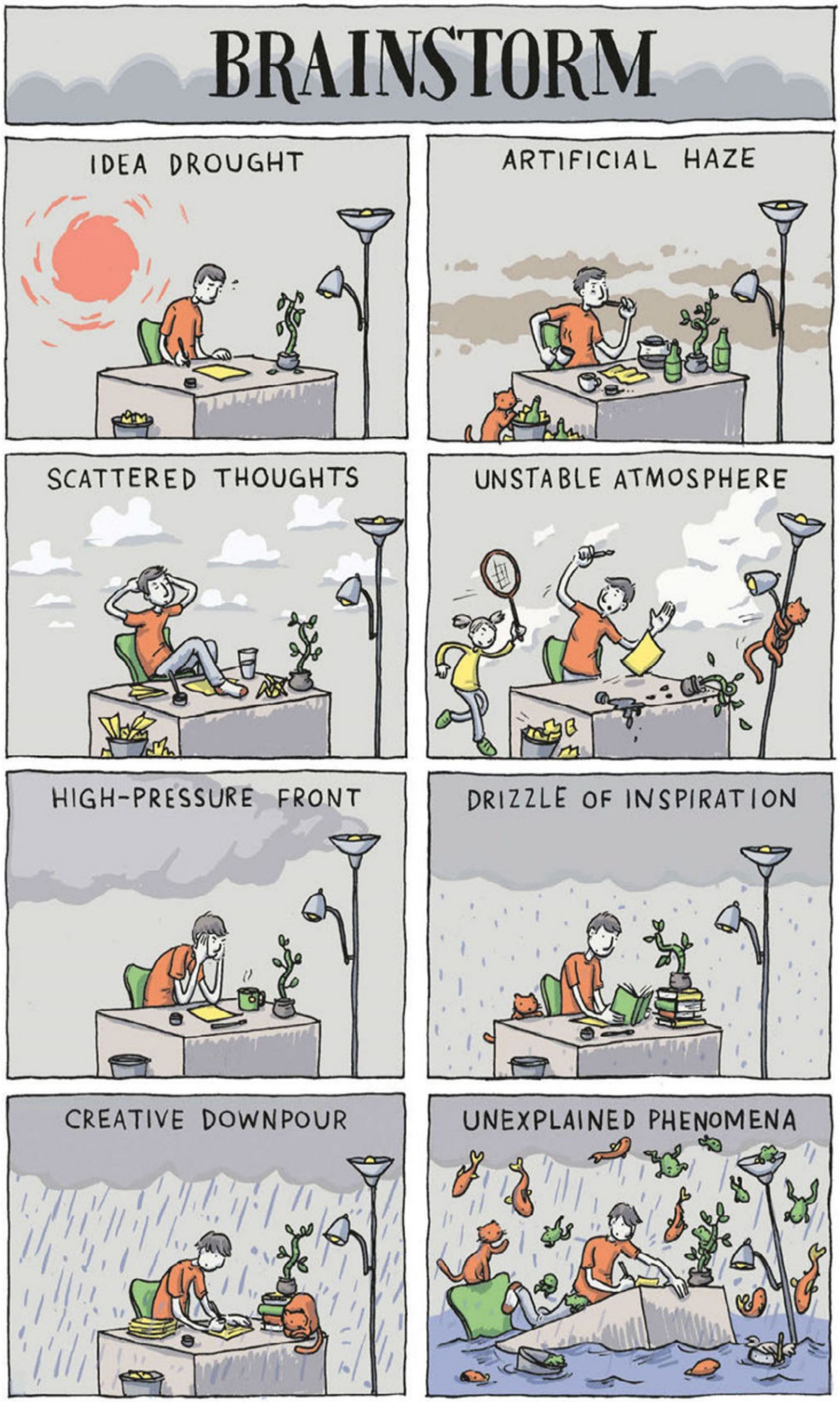

IF YOU PUSH TOO HARD
YOU WILL QUICKLY LOSE MOTIVATION.
IF YOU TURN IT INTO A GAME
THE TAPIR, THOUGH GRACEFUL, CANNOT JUMP.
THE RESULT MAY BE DISCOURAGING.
IF YOU SIT AND THINK POSITIVE THOUGHTS
I AM OVERCOME WITH EGRETS.
NOTHING MUCH WILL HAPPEN.
IF YOU DEVELOP A GRAND, UNUSUAL PLAN
MAKE SURE THE WEATHER COOPERATES.


IF YOU'RE STUCK ON A HILL OVERNIGHT
Z Z Z Z
TRY TO GET SOME REST.
WHEN MORNING COMES, SET SMALL, ACHIEVABLE GOALS.
KEEP MOVING FORWARD...
UNTIL YOU REACH THE TOP!
THE WAY DOWN IS ALWAYS QUICKER.
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE NEXT HILL WILL BRING?

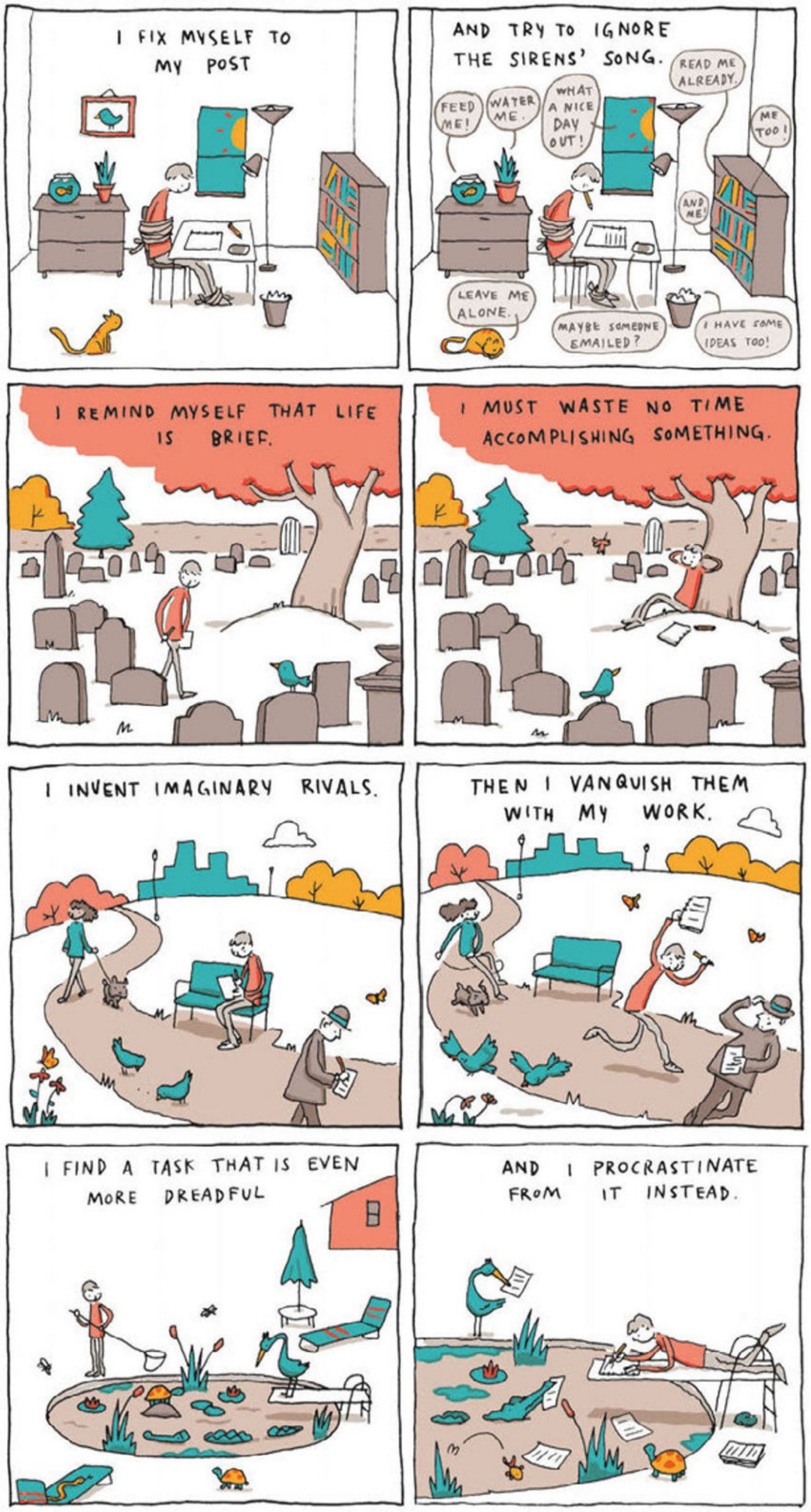
GOOD IDEAS, BAD IDEAS


THEY LOOK VERY SIMILAR.
BUT THEY BEHAVE QUITE DIFFERENTLY.
LOOK, A NEW ONE!
TRY TO CLASSIFY IT AND YOU'LL KILL IT.
WHICH KIND IS IT? *THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO CHASE IT!*
IT'LL TAKE YOU TO UNFAMILIAR PLACES...
REQUIRE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX PLANS...
AND MAY ELUDE YOU COMPLETELY.
WAS IT WORTH CHASING?
ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE.

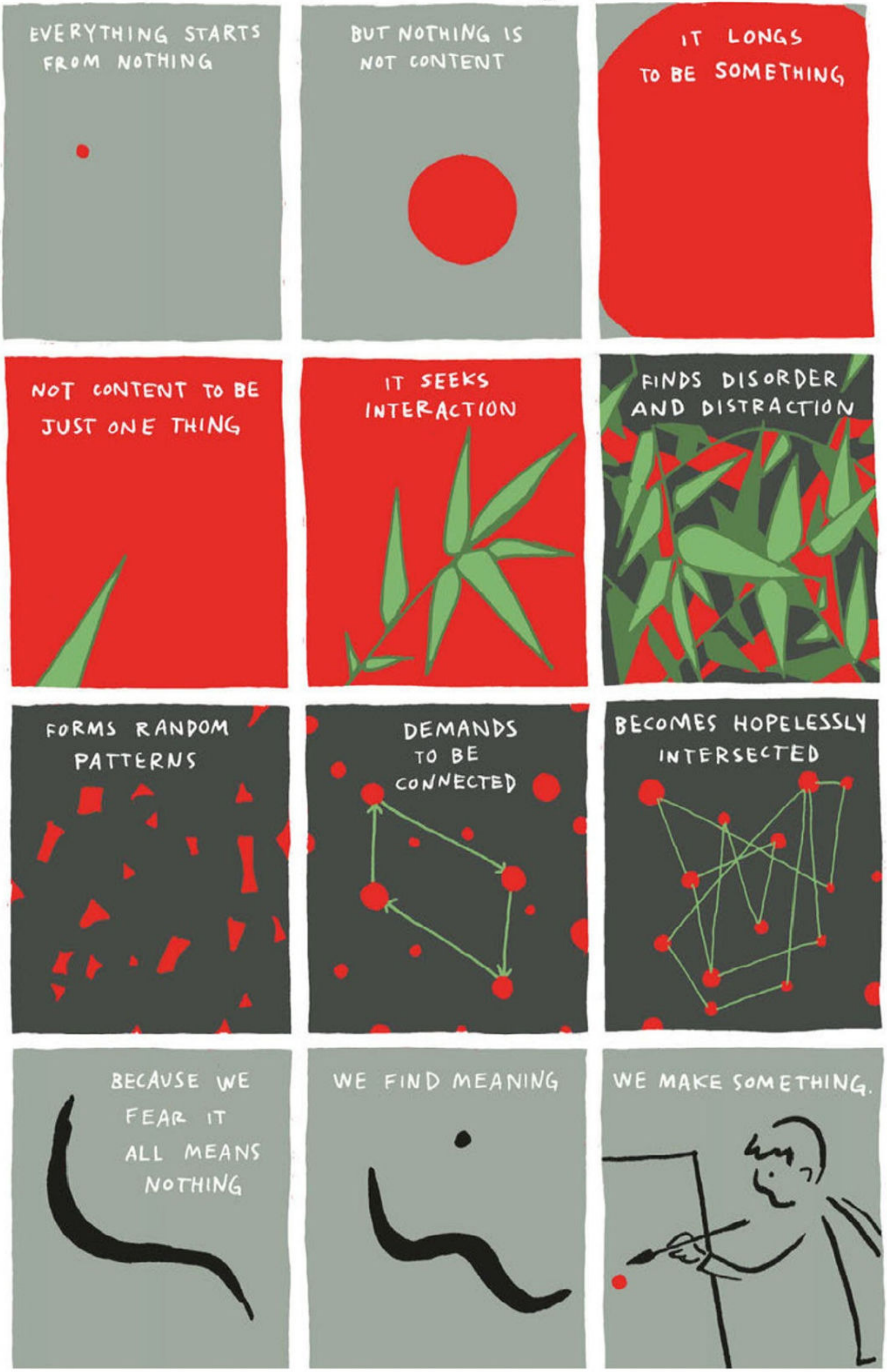
BRAINSTORM


IDEA DROUGHT
ARTIFICIAL HAZE
SCATTERED THOUGHTS
UNSTABLE ATMOSPHERE
HIGH-PRESSURE FRONT
DRIZZLE OF INSPIRATION
CREATIVE DOWNPOUR
UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA

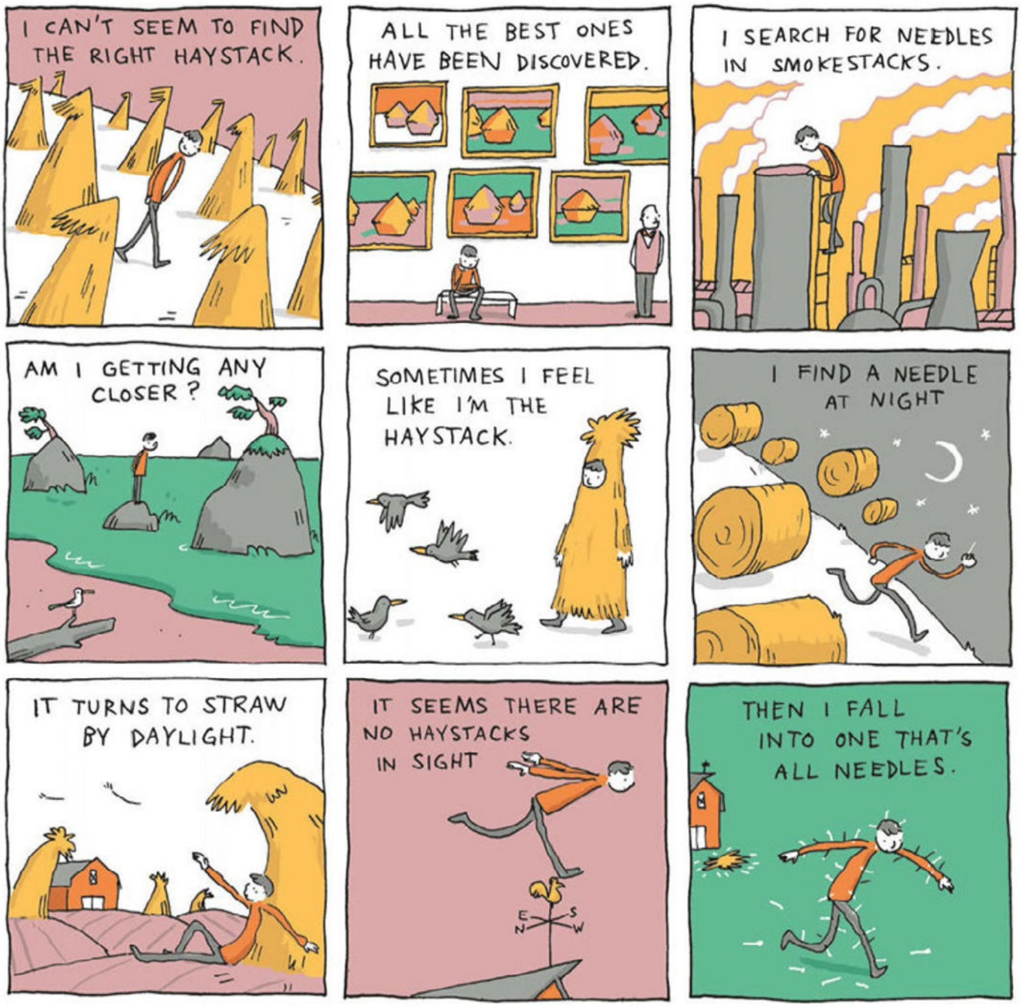
AVOIDING PROCRASTINATION


I FIX MYSELF TO MY POST
AND TRY TO IGNORE THE SIRENS' SONG.
FEED ME!
WATER ME.
WHAT A NICE DAY OUT!
READ ME ALREADY.
ME TOO!
AND ME!
LEAVE ME ALONE.
MAYBE SOMEONE EMAILED?
I HAVE SOME IDEAS TOO!
I REMIND MYSELF THAT LIFE IS BRIEF.
I MUST WASTE NO TIME ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING.
I INVENT IMAGINARY RIVALS.
THEN I VANQUISH THEM WITH MY WORK.
I FIND A TASK THAT IS EVEN MORE DREADFUL
AND I PROCRASTINATE FROM IT INSTEAD.

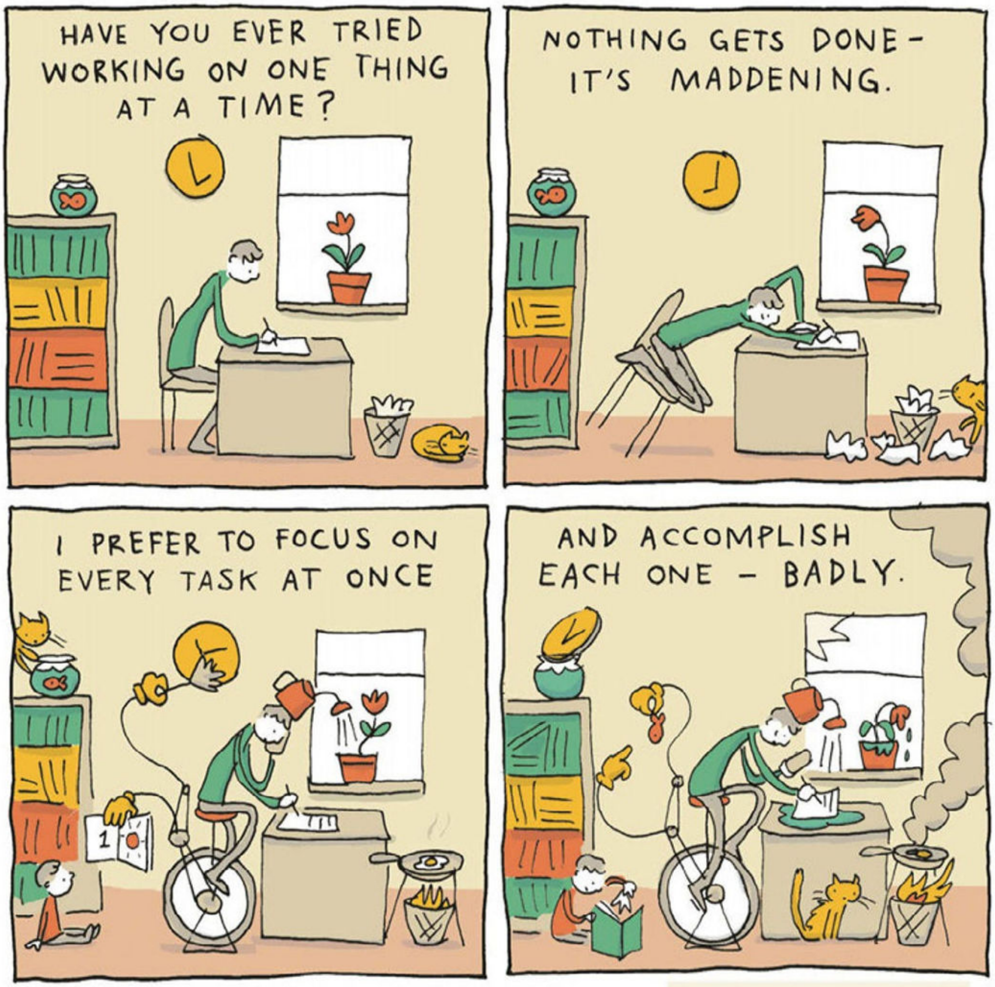
Nothing


EVERYTHING STARTS FROM NOTHING
BUT NOTHING IS NOT CONTENT
IT LONGS TO BE SOMETHING
NOT CONTENT TO BE JUST ONE THING
IT SEEKS INTERACTION
FINDS DISORDER AND DISTRACTION
FORMS RANDOM PATTERNS
DEMANDS TO BE CONNECTED
BECOMES HOPELESSLY INTERSECTED
BECAUSE WE FEAR IT ALL MEANS NOTHING
WE FIND MEANING
WE MAKE SOMETHING.

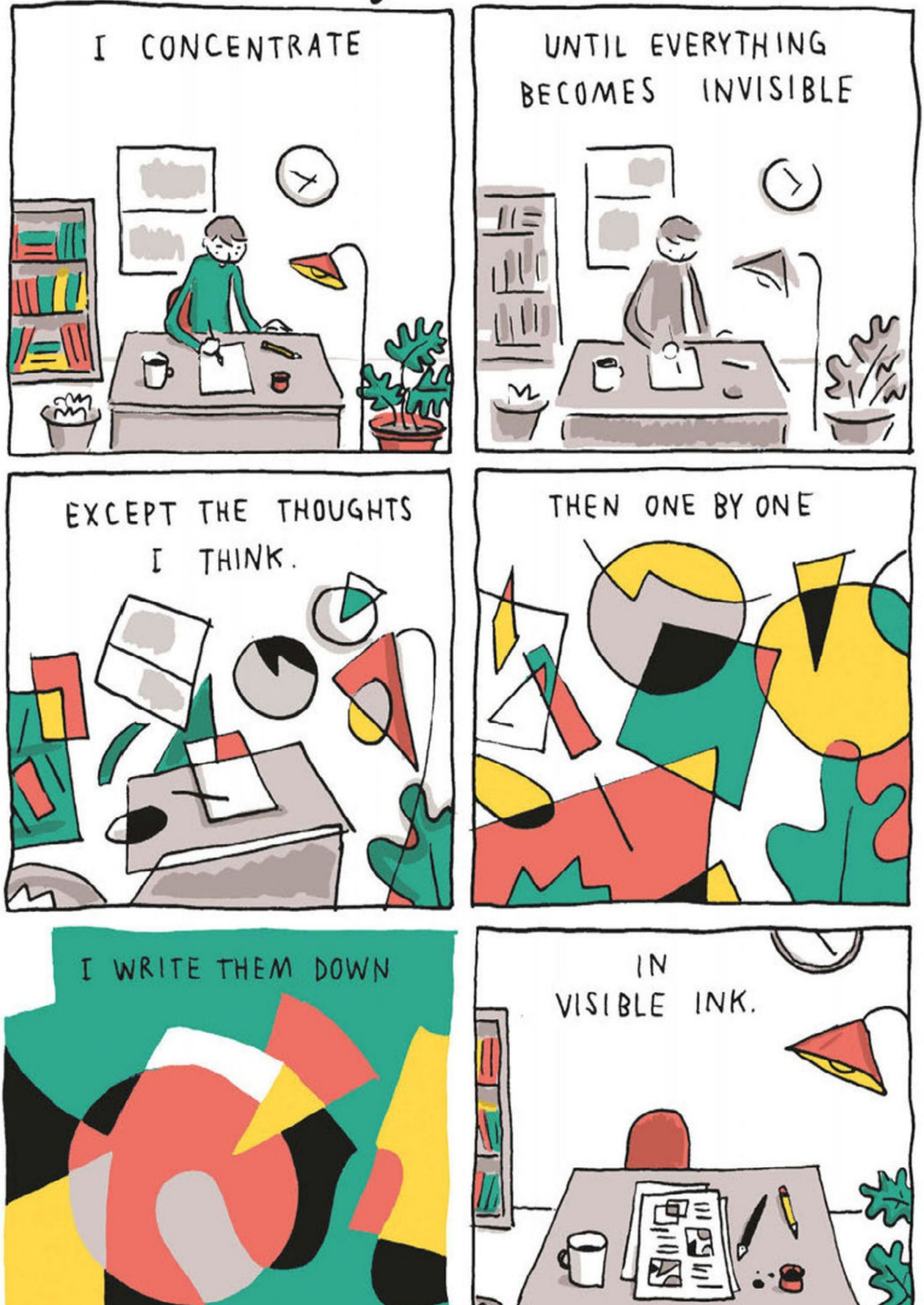
needles and haystacks


I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE RIGHT HAYSTACK.
ALL THE BEST ONES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.
I SEARCH FOR NEEDLES IN SMOKESTACKS.
AM I GETTING ANY CLOSER?
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M THE HAYSTACK.
I FIND A NEEDLE AT NIGHT
IT TURNS TO STRAW BY DAYLIGHT.
IT SEEMS THERE ARE NO HAYSTACKS IN SIGHT
E S N W
THEN I FALL INTO ONE THAT'S ALL NEEDLES.

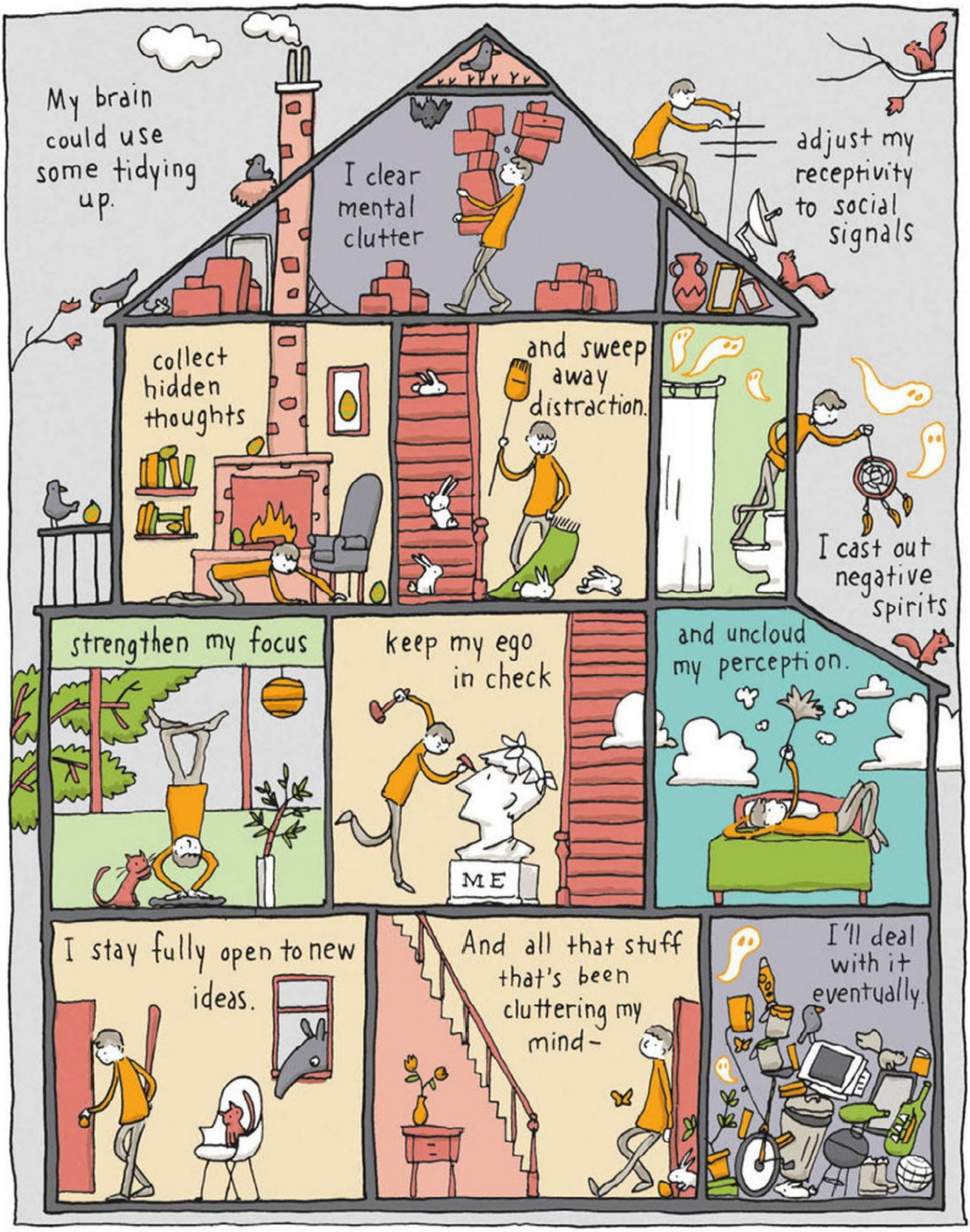
multitasking


HAVE YOU EVER TRIED WORKING ON ONE THING AT A TIME?
NOTHING GETS DONE - IT'S MADDENING.
I PREFER TO FOCUS ON EVERY TASK AT ONCE
1
AND ACCOMPLISH EACH ONE - BADLY.

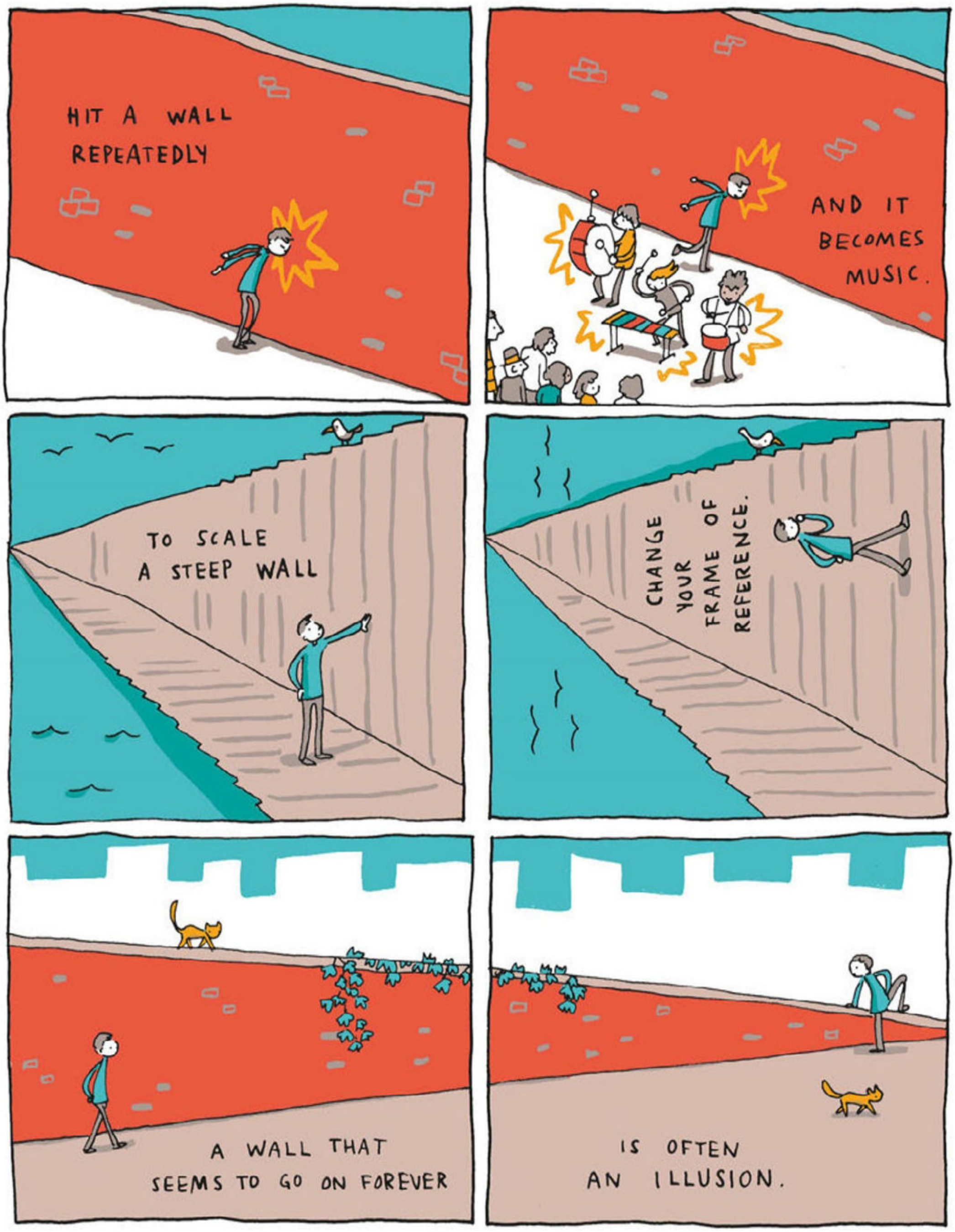
My Process

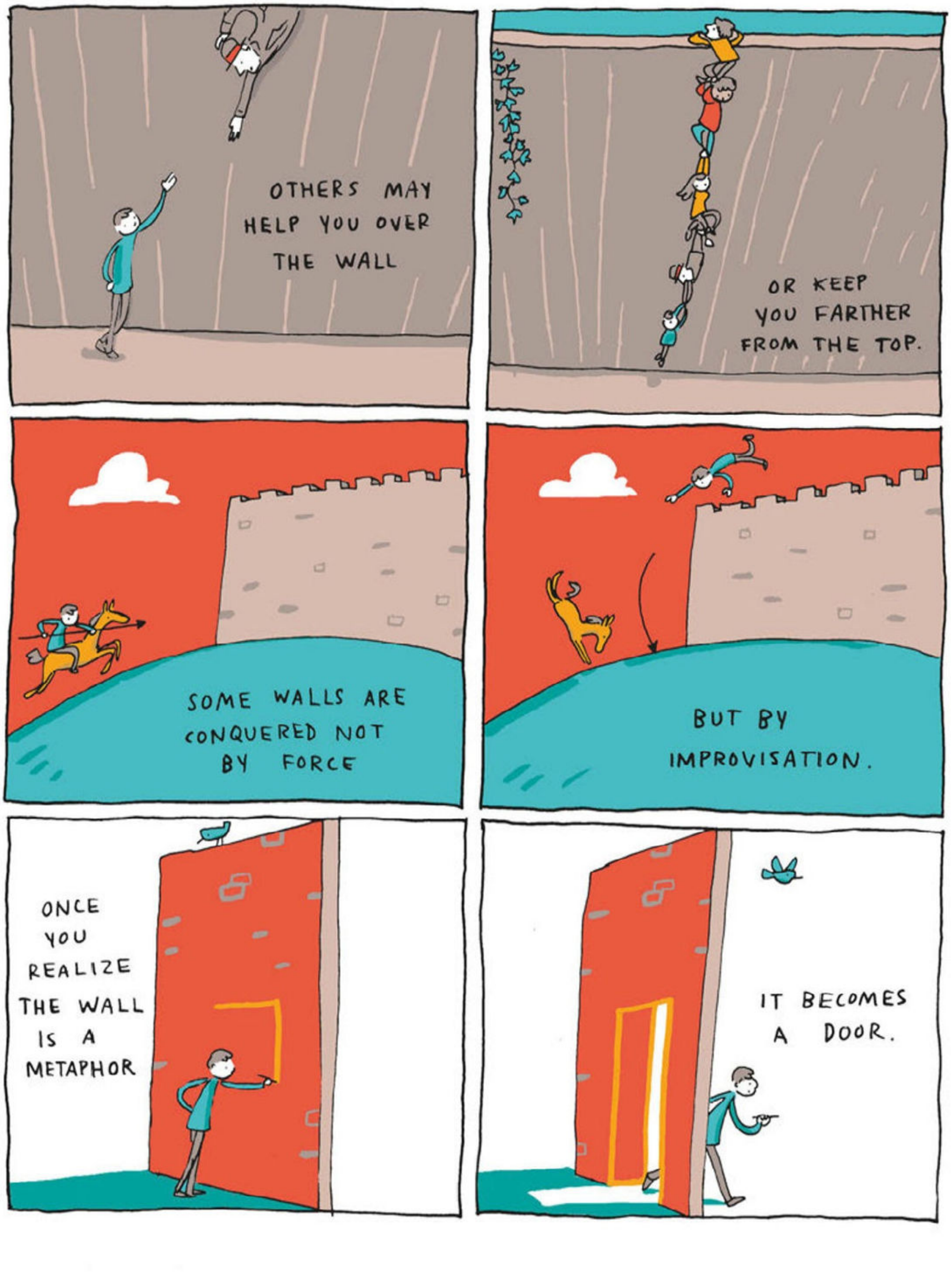

I CONCENTRATE
UNTIL EVERYTHING BECOMES INVISIBLE
EXCEPT THE THOUGHTS I THINK.
THEN ONE BY ONE
I WRITE THEM DOWN
IN VISIBLE INK.

INTERIOR LIFE


My brain could use some tidying up.
I clear mental clutter
adjust my receptivity to social signals
collect hidden thoughts
and sweep away distraction.
I cast out negative spirits
strengthen my focus
keep my ego in check
ME
and uncloud my perception.
I stay fully open to new ideas.
And all that stuff that's been cluttering my mind–
I'll deal with it eventually.

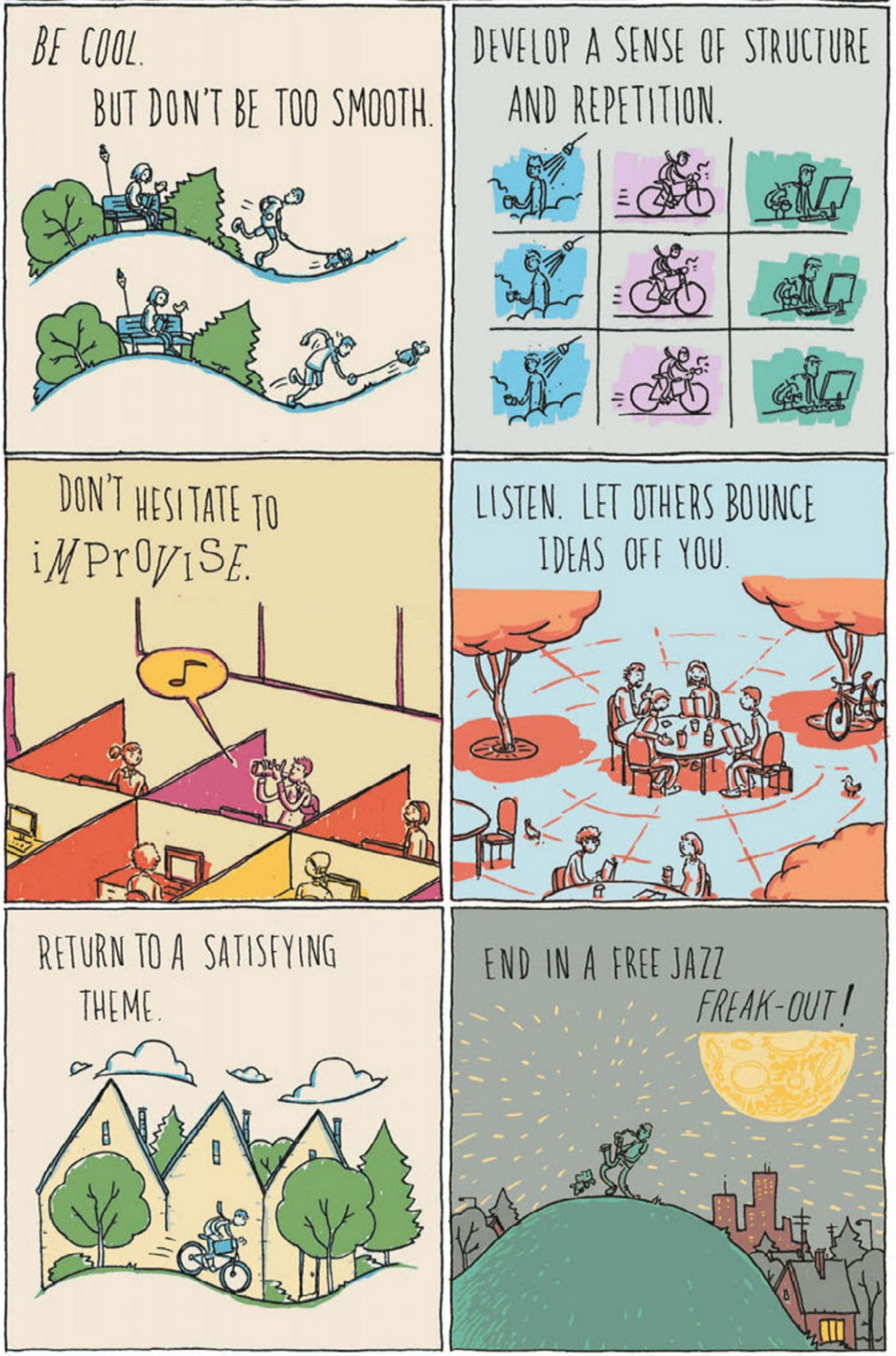
HITTING A WALL


HIT A WALL
REPEATEDLY
AND IT
BECOMES
MUSIC.
TO SCALE
A STEEP WALL
CHANGE
YOUR
FRAME OF
REFERENCE.
A WALL THAT
SEEMS TO GO ON FOREVER
IS OFTEN
AN ILLUSION.

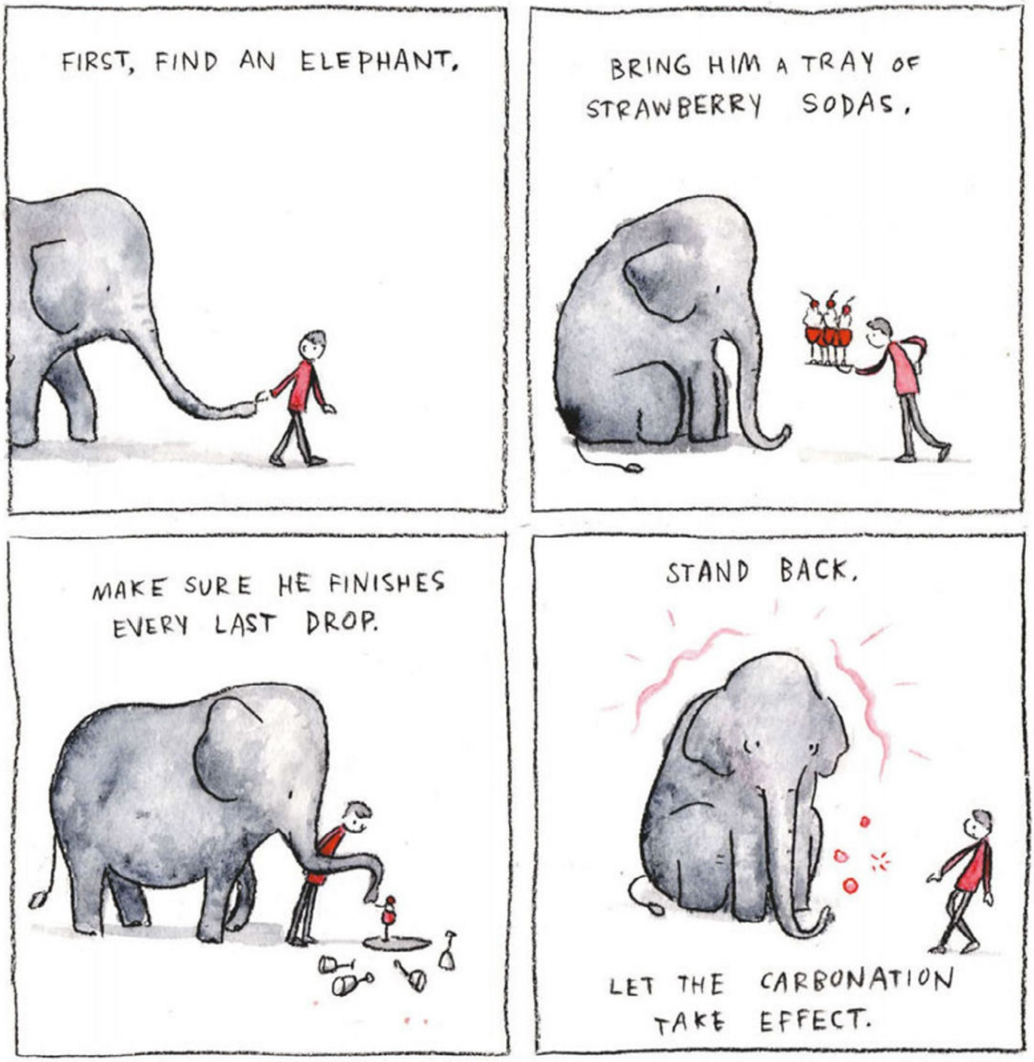

OTHERS MAY HELP YOU OVER THE WALL
OR KEEP YOU FARTHER FROM THE TOP.
SOME WALLS ARE CONQUERED NOT BY FORCE
BUT BY IMPROVISATION.
ONCE YOU REALIZE THE WALL IS A METAPHOR
IT BECOMES A DOOR.

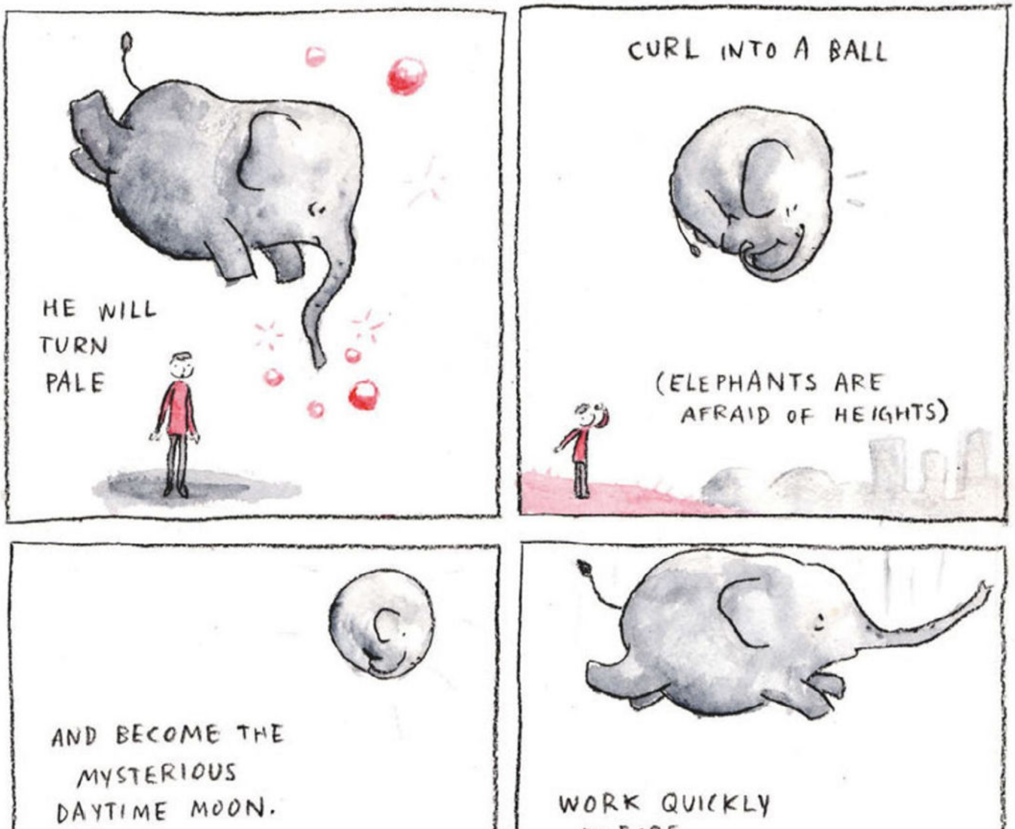
IMPROVISATION

PLAY EACH DAY LIKE Jazz.

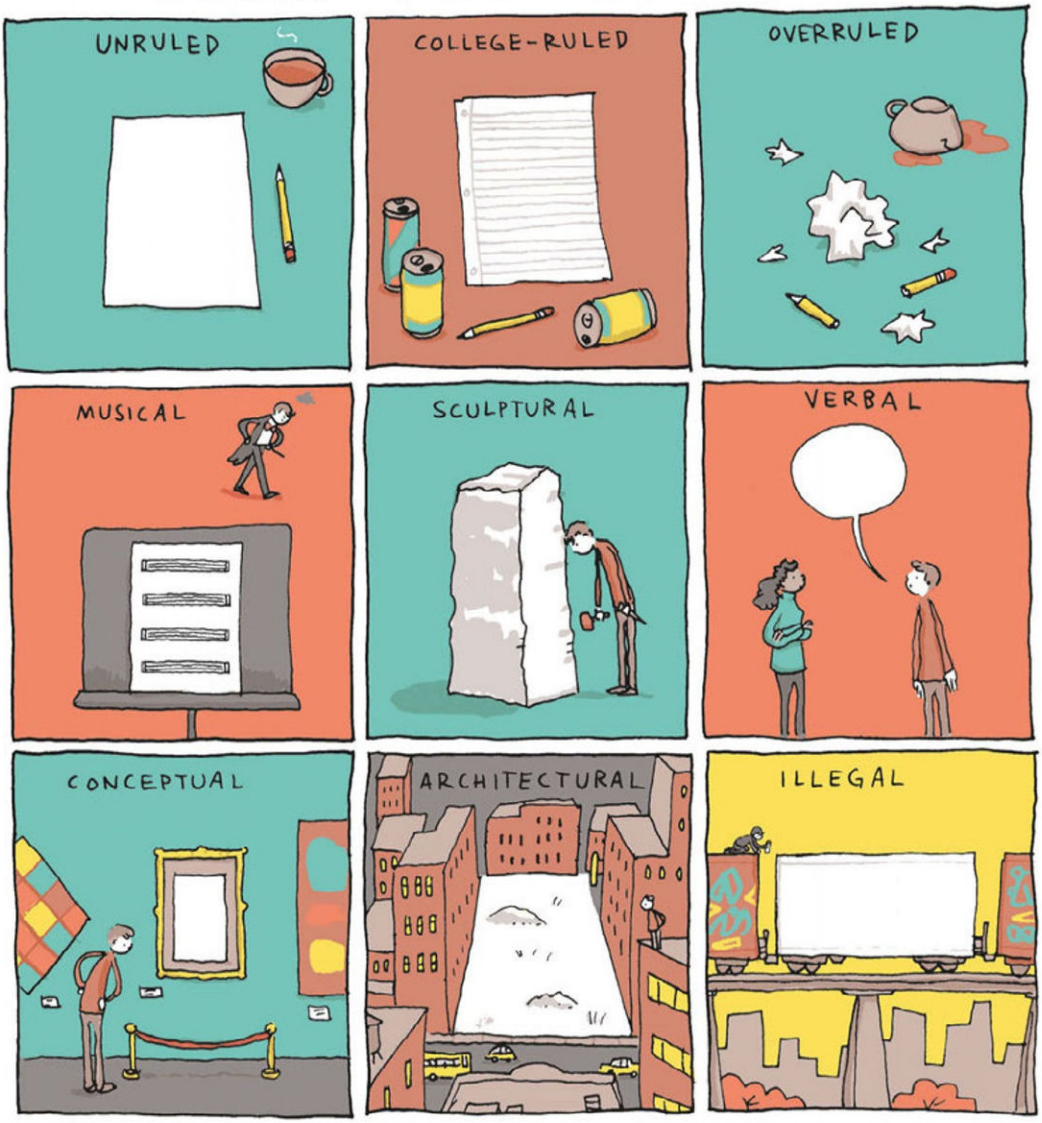

BE COOL.
BUT DON'T BE TOO SMOOTH.
DEVELOP A SENSE OF STRUCTURE AND REPETITION.
DON'T HESITATE TO iMPrOVISE.
LISTEN. LET OTHERS BOUNCE IDEAS OFF YOU.
RETURN TO A SATISFYING THEME.
END IN A FREE JAZZ FREAK-OUT!

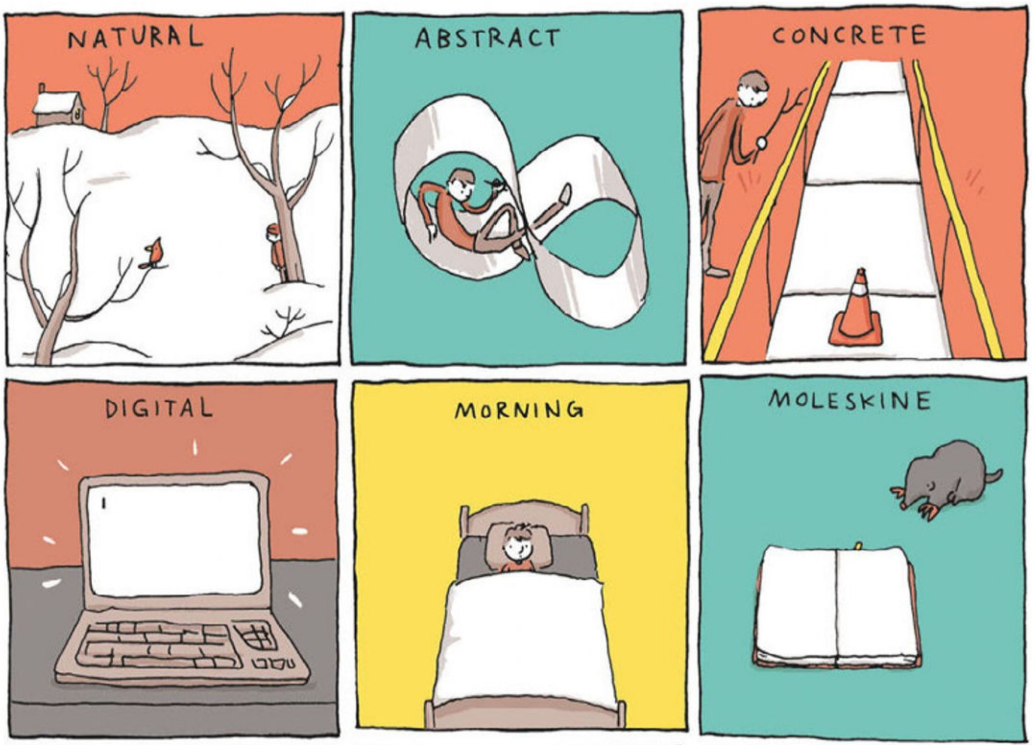
DRAWING THE MOON


FIRST, FIND AN ELEPHANT.
BRING HIM A TRAY OF STRAWBERRY SODAS.
MAKE SURE HE FINISHES EVERY LAST DROP.
STAND BACK.
LET THE CARBONATION TAKE EFFECT.

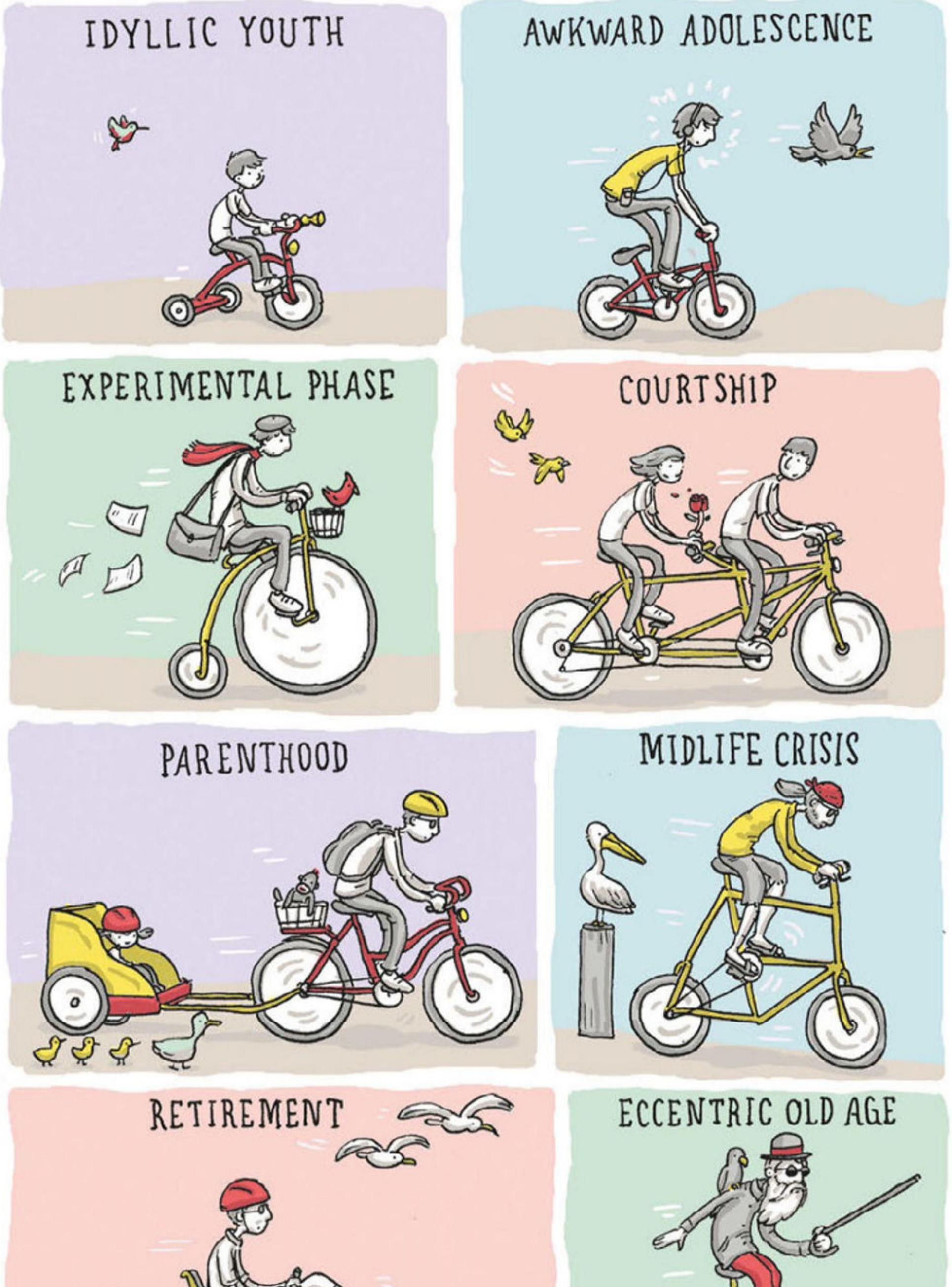

HE WILL TURN PALE
CURL INTO A BALL
(ELEPHANTS ARE AFRAID OF HEIGHTS)
AND BECOME THE MYSTERIOUS DAYTIME MOON.
WORK QUICKLY BEFORE THE MAGIC WEARS OFF.

BLANK PAGE VARIATIONS


UNRULED
COLLEGE-RULED
OVERRULED
MUSICAL
SCULPTURAL
VERBAL
CONCEPTUAL
ARCHITECTURAL
ILLEGAL

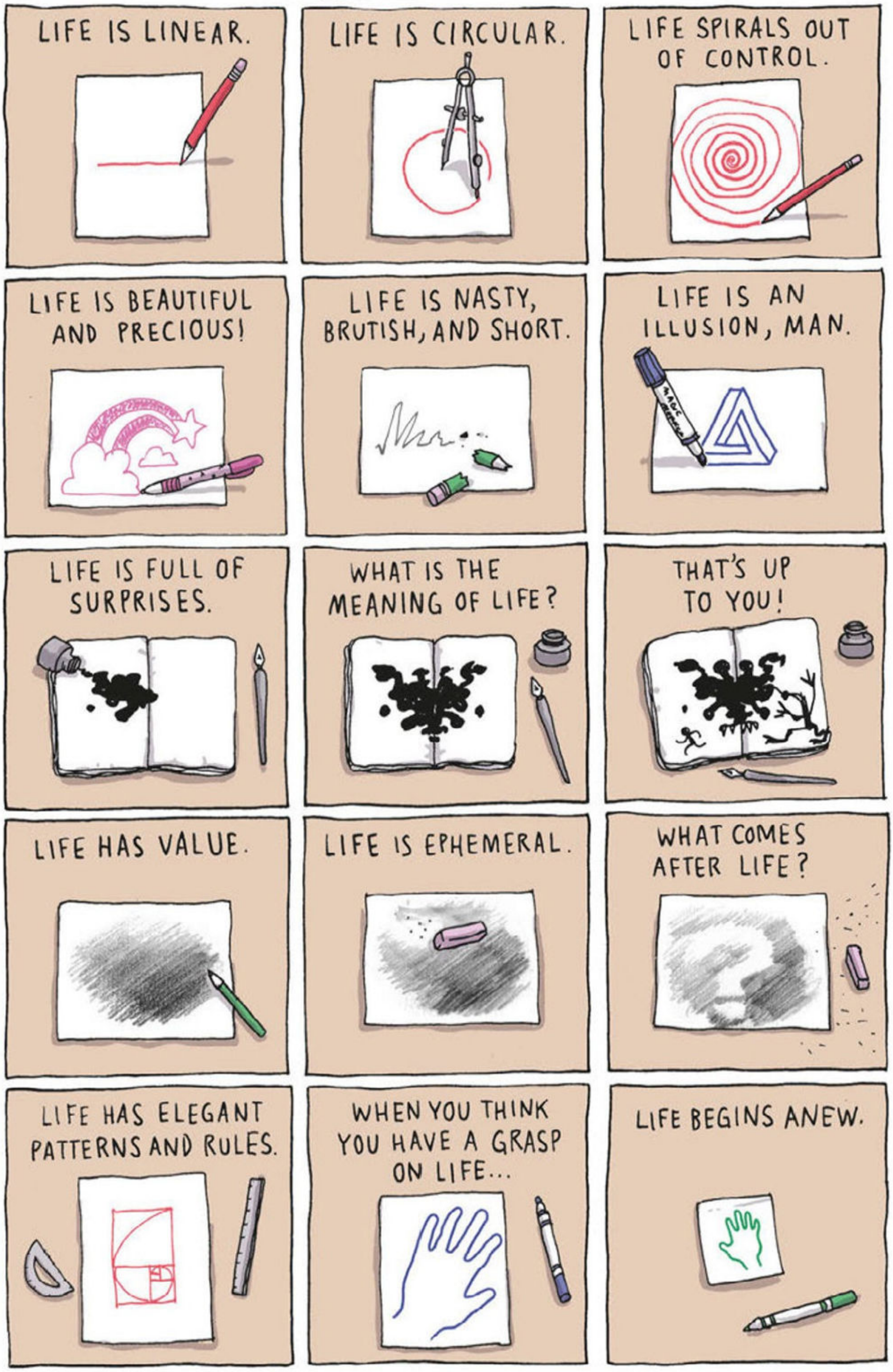

NATURAL
ABSTRACT
CONCRETE
DIGITAL
MORNING
MOLESKINE
COMIC
COSMIC

CYCLES OF LIFE

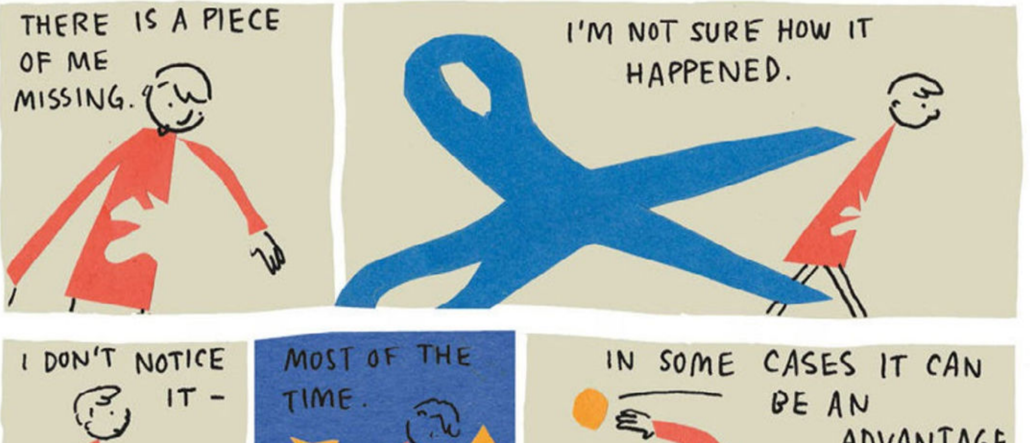


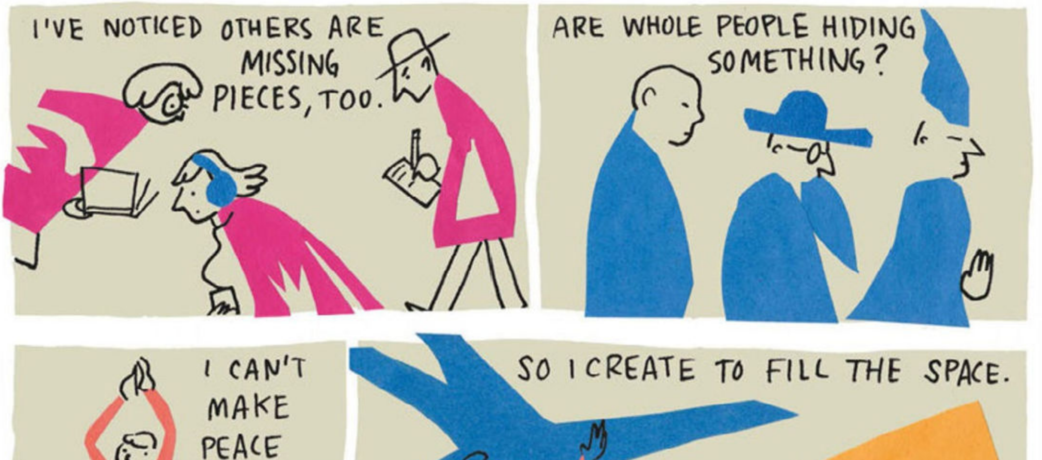
IDYLLIC YOUTH
AWKWARD ADOLESCENCE
EXPERIMENTAL PHASE
COURTSHIP
PARENTHOOD
MIDLIFE CRISIS
RETIREMENT
ECCENTRIC OLD AGE

LIFE DRAWING

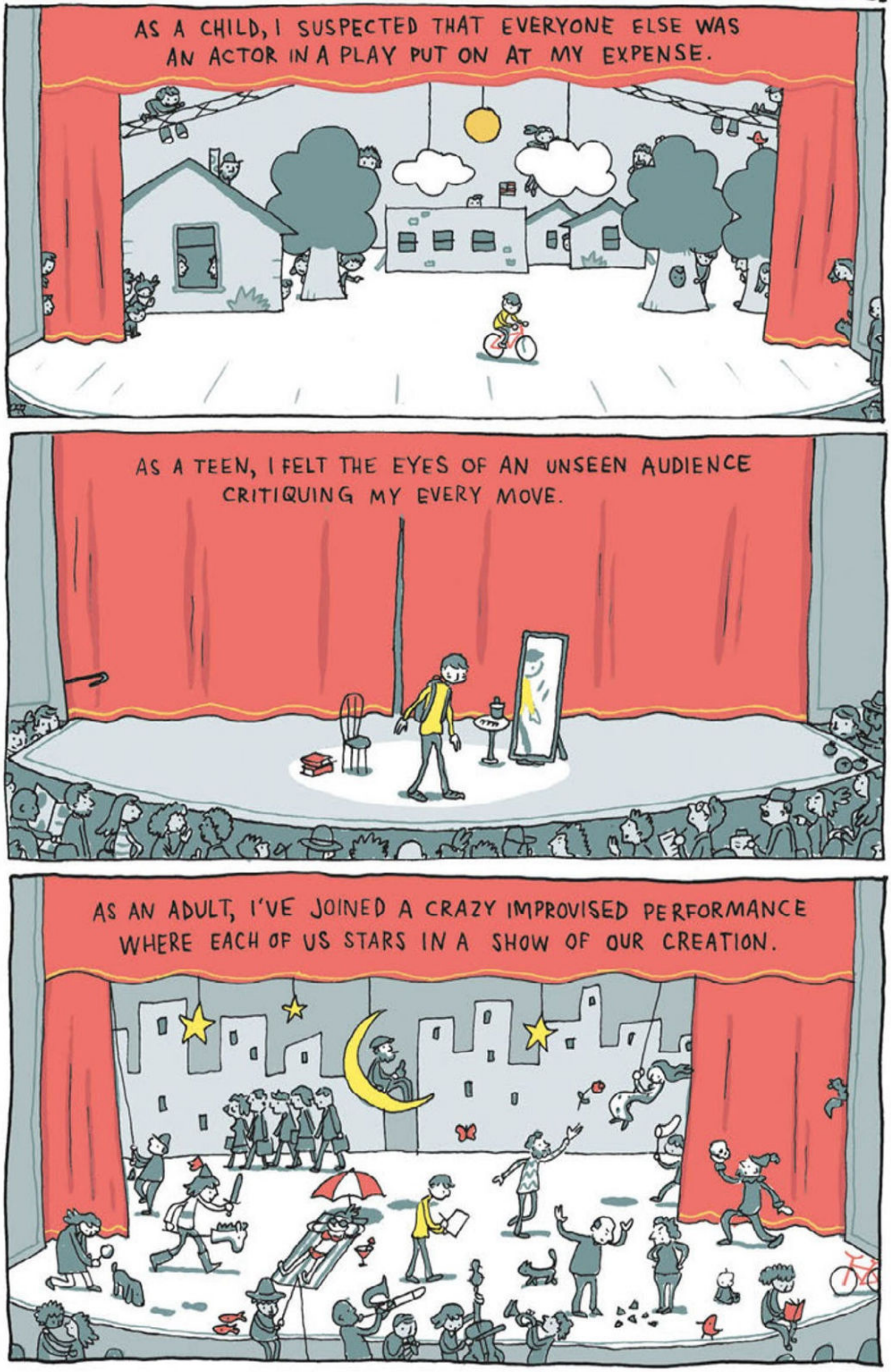

LIFE IS LINEAR.
LIFE IS CIRCULAR.
LIFE SPIRALS OUT OF CONTROL.
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL AND PRECIOUS!
LIFE IS NASTY, BRUTISH, AND SHORT.
LIFE IS AN ILLUSION, MAN.
LIFE IS FULL OF SURPRISES.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?
THAT'S UP TO YOU!
LIFE HAS VALUE.
LIFE IS EPHEMERAL.
WHAT COMES AFTER LIFE?
LIFE HAS ELEGANT PATTERNS AND RULES.
WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE A GRASP ON LIFE...
LIFE BEGINS ANEW.

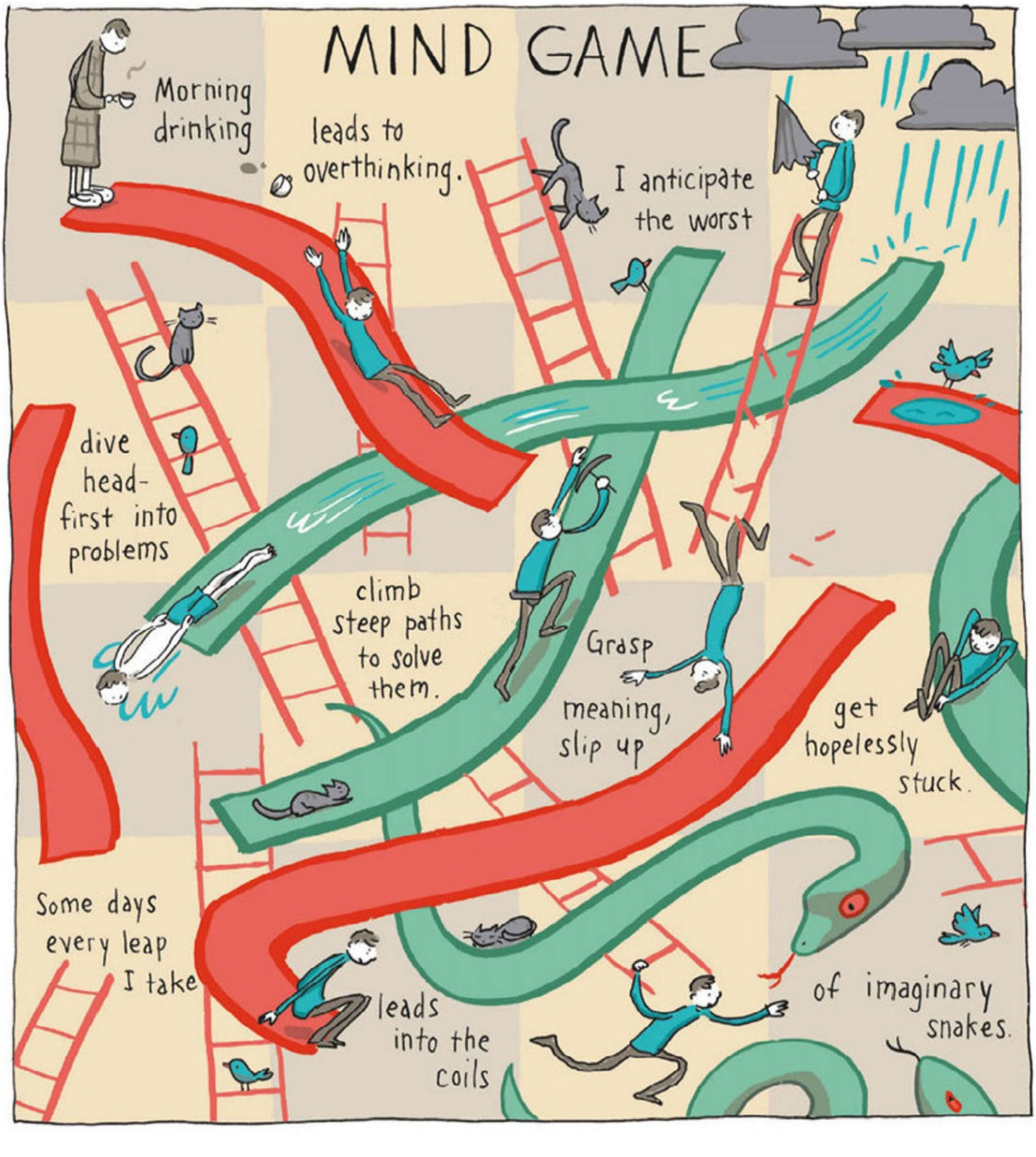
THE MISSING PIECE


THERE IS A PIECE OF ME MISSING.
I'M NOT SURE HOW IT HAPPENED.
I DON'T NOTICE IT -
MOST OF THE TIME.
IN SOME CASES IT CAN BE AN ADVANTAGE.
I'VE SEARCHED FOR THINGS TO FILL THE SPACE.
THEY HELP - TEMPORARILY.


I'VE NOTICED OTHERS ARE MISSING PIECES, TOO.
ARE WHOLE PEOPLE HIDING SOMETHING?
I CAN'T MAKE PEACE WITH WHAT'S MISSING.
SO I CREATE TO FILL THE SPACE.
WITH EVERY NEW THING I MAKE
I THINK I'M GETTING CLOSER TO WHOLE.

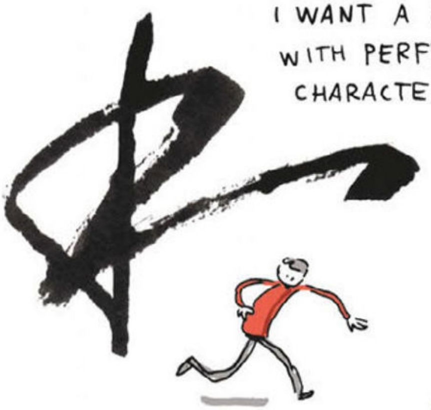
ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE


AS A CHILD, I SUSPECTED THAT EVERYONE ELSE WAS AN ACTOR IN A PLAY PUT ON AT MY EXPENSE.
AS A TEEN, I FELT THE EYES OF AN UNSEEN AUDIENCE CRITIQUING MY EVERY MOVE.
AS AN ADULT, I'VE JOINED A CRAZY IMPROVISED PERFORMANCE WHERE EACH OF US STARS IN A SHOW OF OUR CREATION.

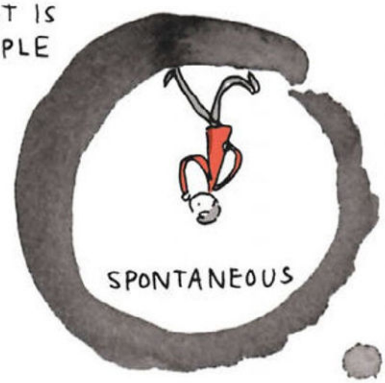

MIND GAME
Morning drinking
leads to overthinking.
I anticipate the worst
dive head-first into problems
climb steep paths to solve them.
Grasp meaning,
slip up
get hopelessly stuck.
Some days every leap I take
leads into the coils
of imaginary snakes.

QUALITY OF LINE

I WANT A LINE WITH PERFECT CHARACTER.

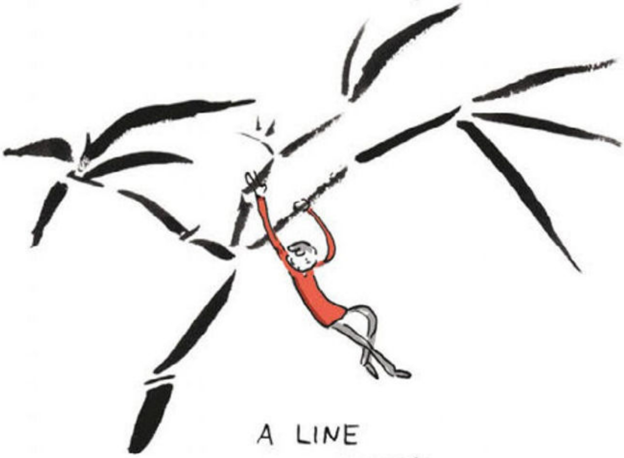


A LINE THAT IS SIMPLE



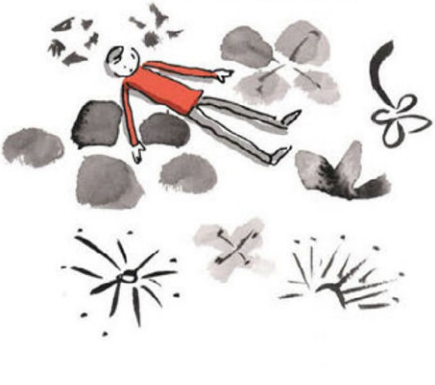
SPONTANEOUS

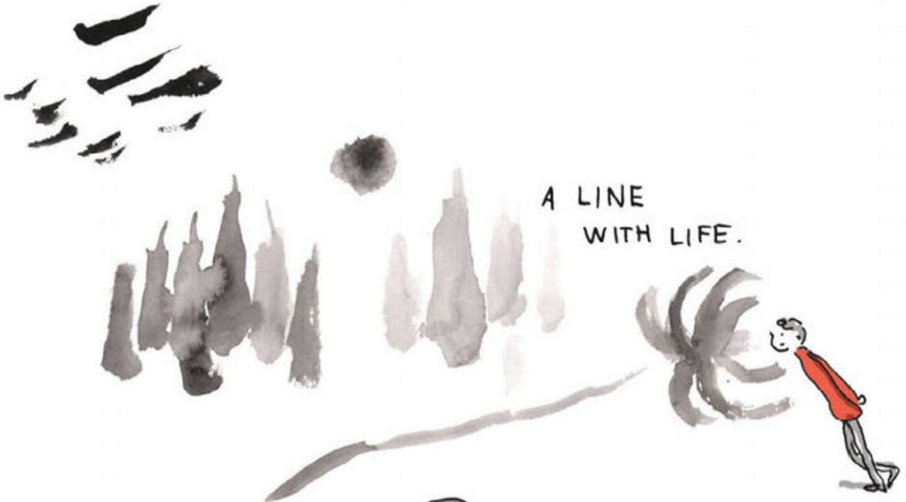
AND SPIRITUALLY FOCUSED.

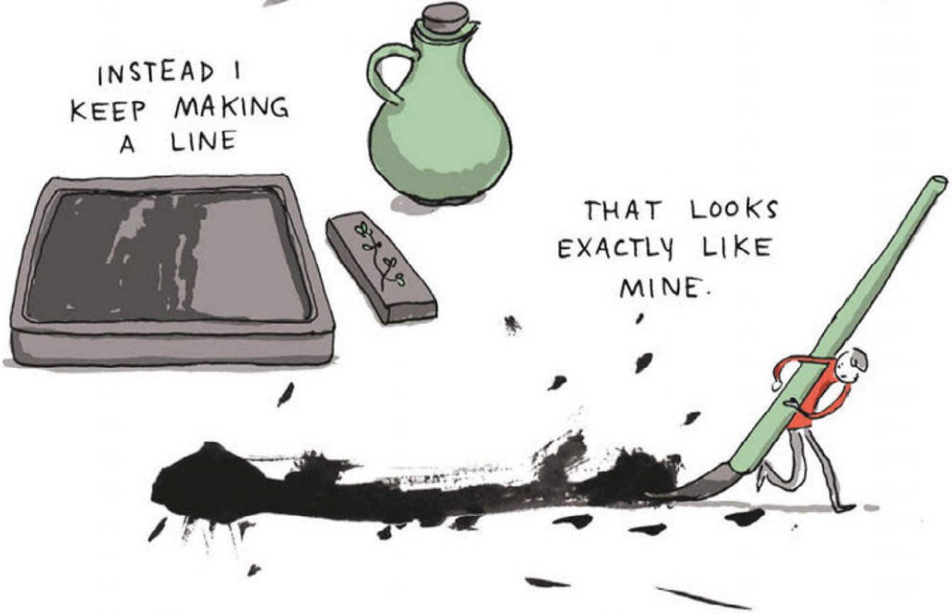


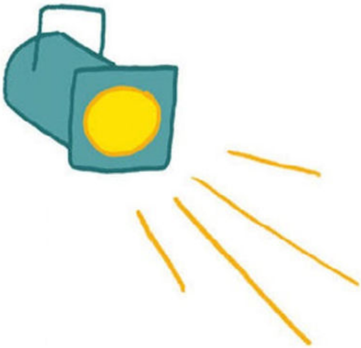
A LINE WITH NATURAL GRACE AND COMPOSURE.

A LINE THAT BLOSSOMS AND BRANCHES OUT.



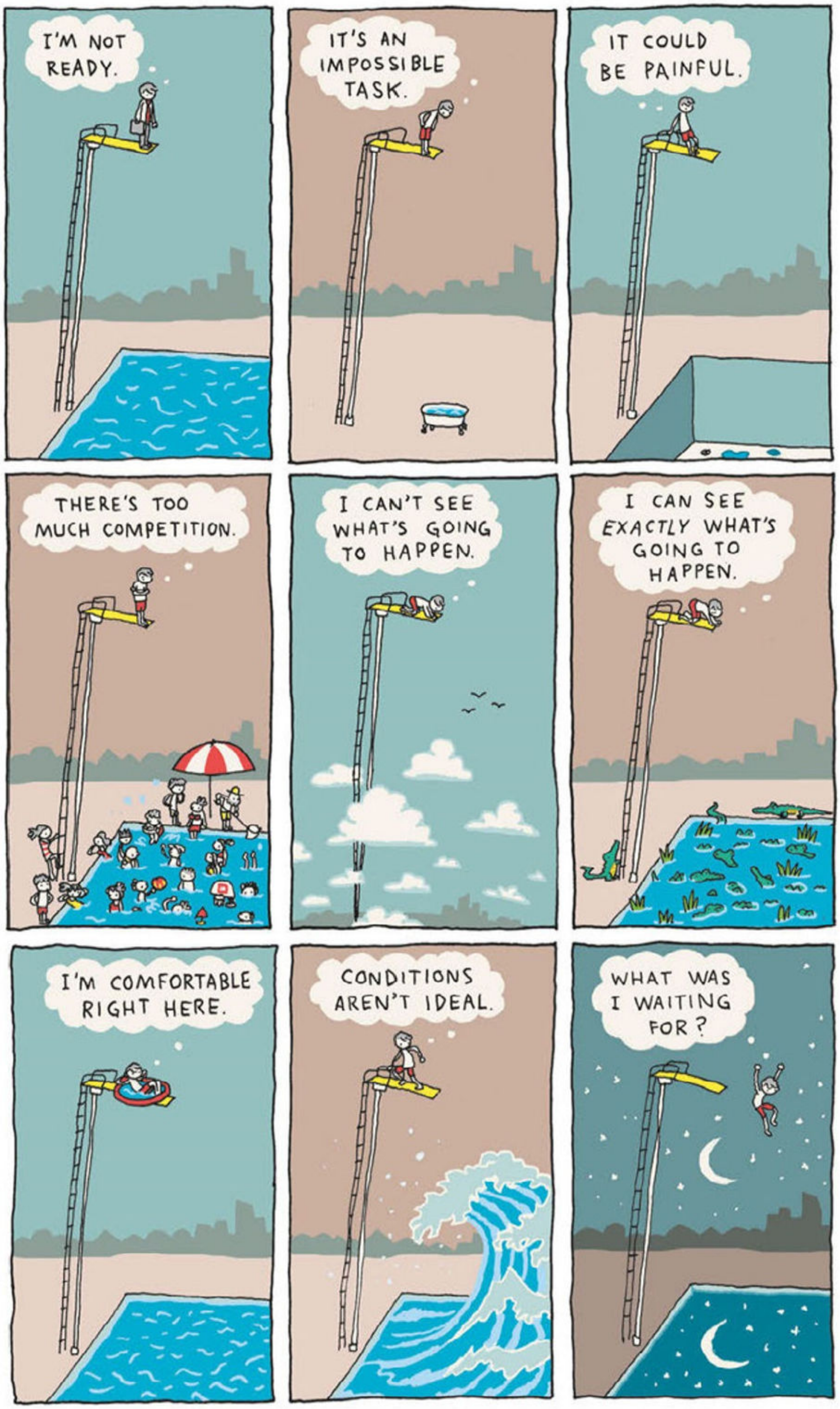

A LINE
WITH LIFE.


INSTEAD I
KEEP MAKING
A LINE
THAT LOOKS
EXACTLY LIKE
MINE.

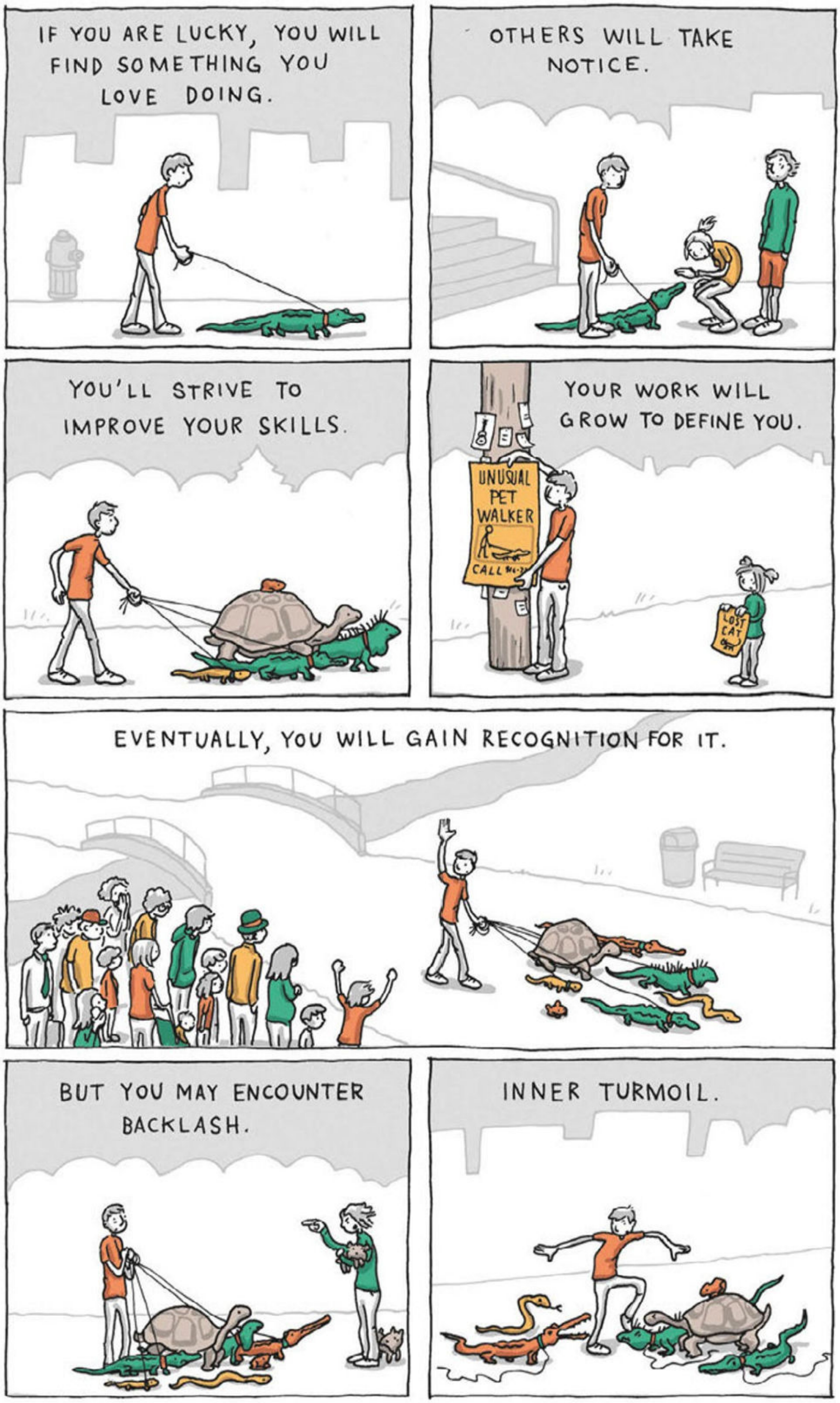


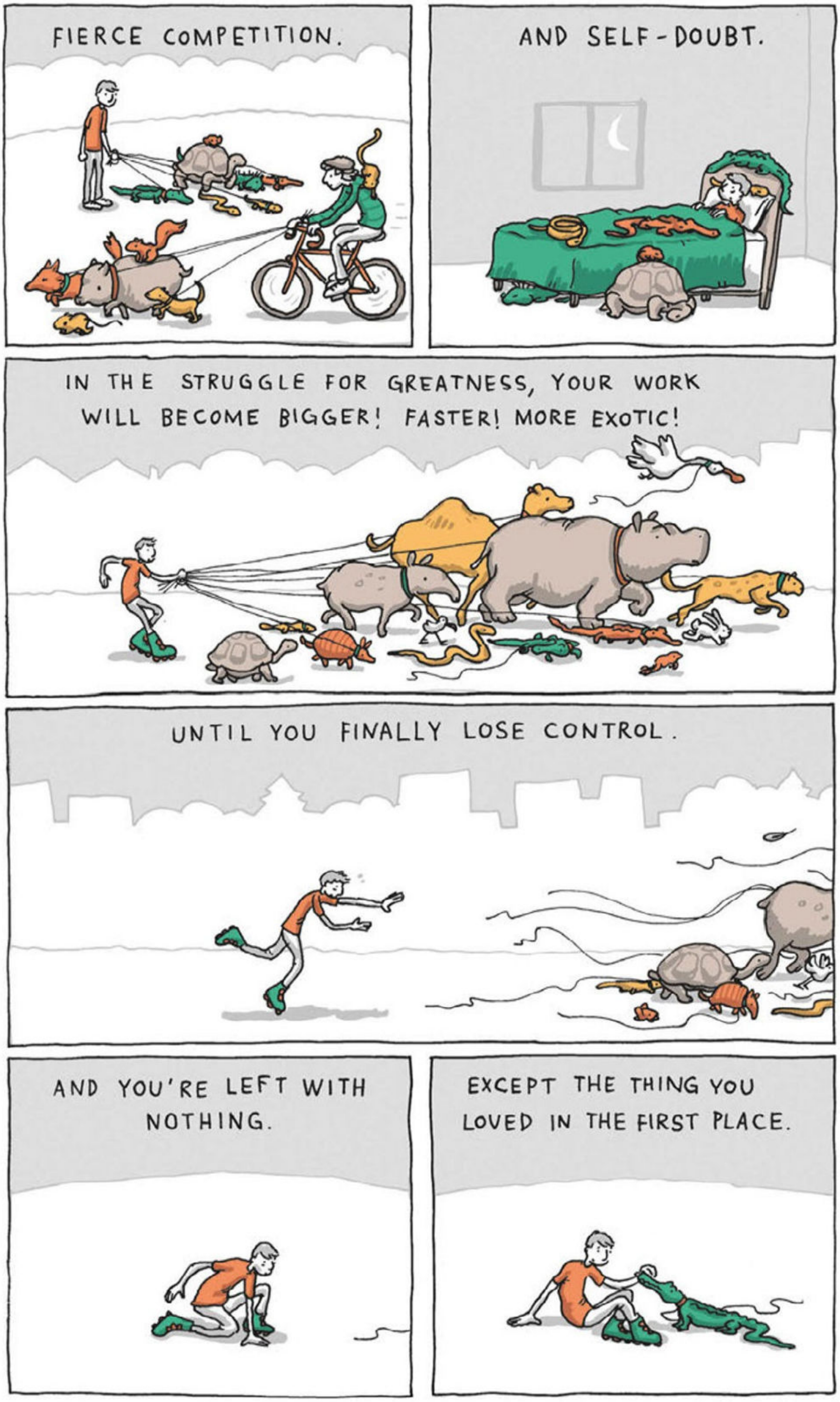
ASPIRATION

MAKING THE LEAP

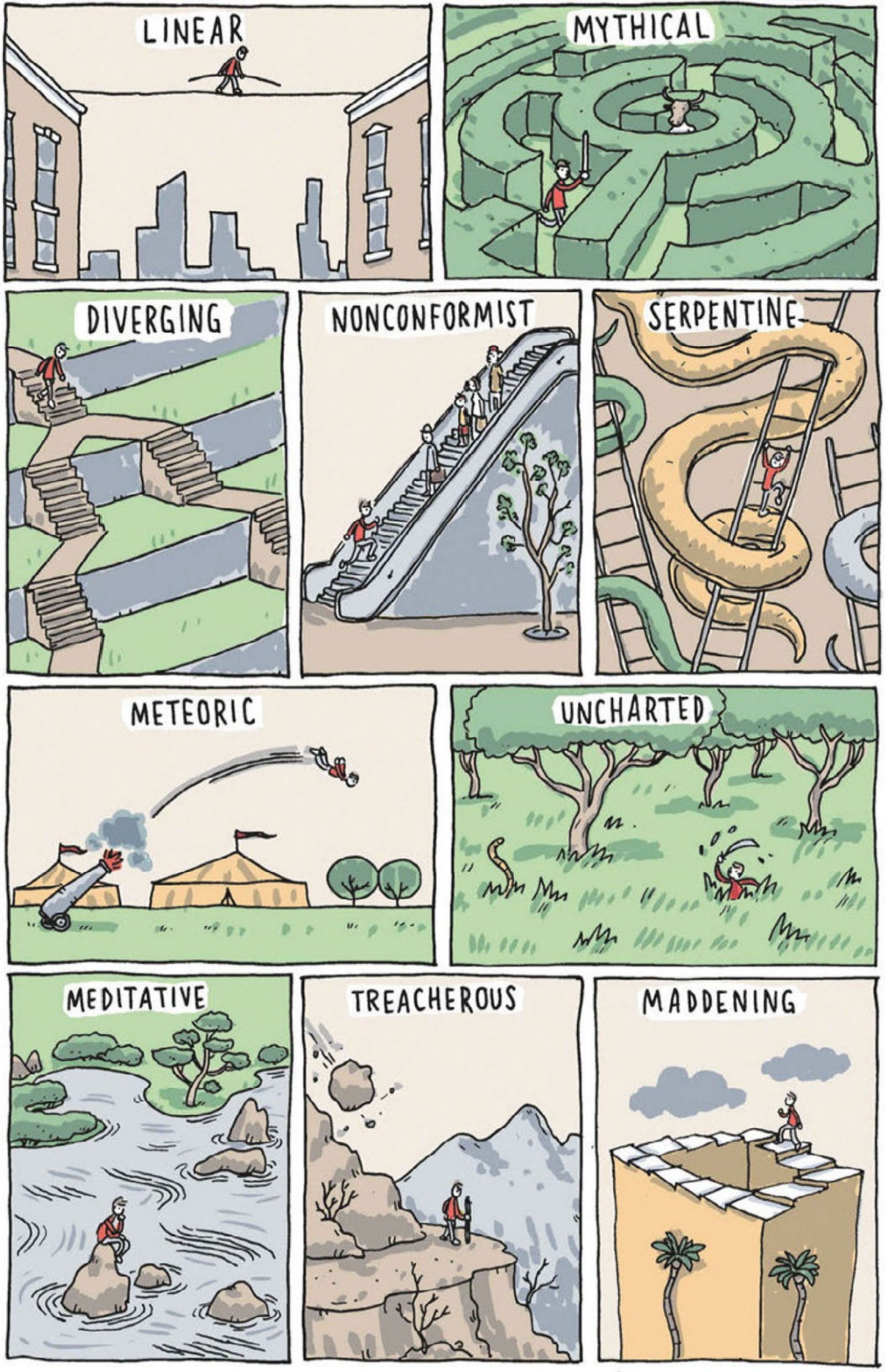

I'M NOT READY.
IT'S AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK.
IT COULD BE PAINFUL.
THERE'S TOO MUCH COMPETITION.
I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
I CAN SEE *EXACTLY* WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
I'M COMFORTABLE RIGHT HERE.
CONDITIONS AREN'T IDEAL.
WHAT WAS I WAITING FOR?

THE NATURE OF AMBITION


IF YOU ARE LUCKY, YOU WILL FIND SOMETHING YOU LOVE DOING.
OTHERS WILL TAKE NOTICE.
YOU'LL STRIVE TO IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS.
YOUR WORK WILL GROW TO DEFINE YOU.
UNUSUAL PET WALKER
CALL
LOST CAT
EVENTUALLY, YOU WILL GAIN RECOGNITION FOR IT.
BUT YOU MAY ENCOUNTER BACKLASH.
INNER TURMOIL.

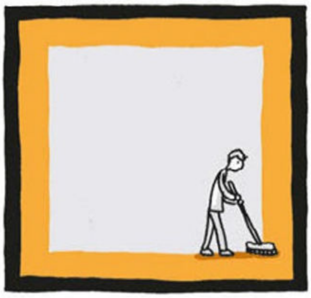

FIERCE COMPETITION.
AND SELF-DOUBT.
IN THE STRUGGLE FOR GREATNESS, YOUR WORK WILL BECOME BIGGER! FASTER! MORE EXOTIC!
UNTIL YOU FINALLY LOSE CONTROL.
AND YOU'RE LEFT WITH NOTHING.
EXCEPT THE THING YOU LOVED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

PATHS TO SUCCESS

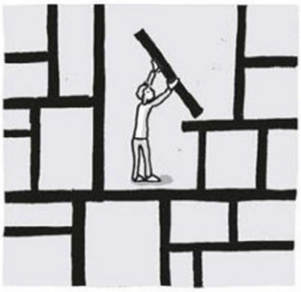

LINEAR
MYTHICAL
DIVERGING
NONCONFORMIST
SERPENTINE
METEORIC
UNCHARTED
MEDITATIVE
TREACHEROUS
MADDENING

minimalism is simple.

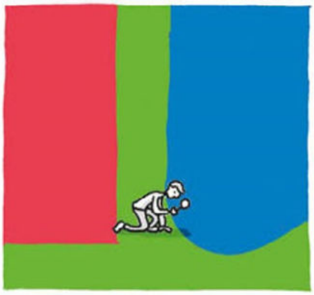
GET RID OF THE UNNECESSARY.



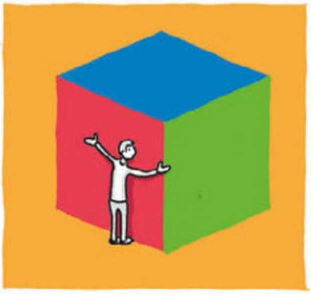
CREATE STRUCTURE.



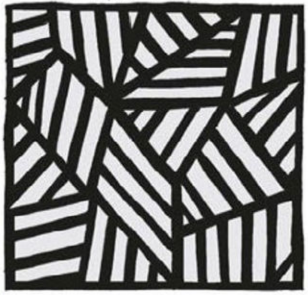
STOP SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN MEANING.



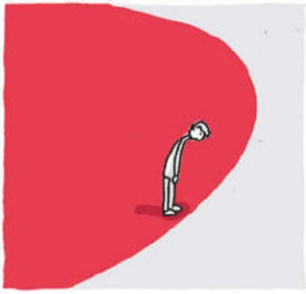
EMBRACE WHAT IS SOLID.



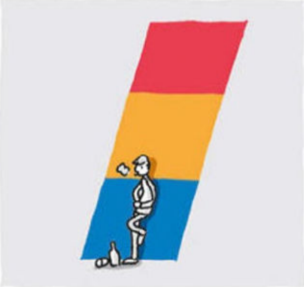
LOSE YOURSELF IN PATTERNS.



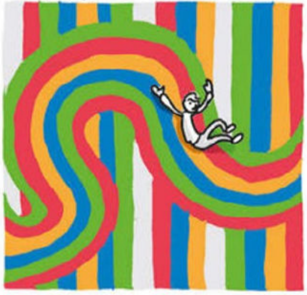
DON'T FEAR EMPTY SPACE.



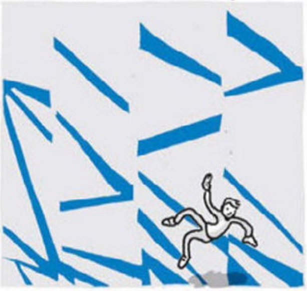
STAY CLEAN.



BE BOLD AND COLORFUL.

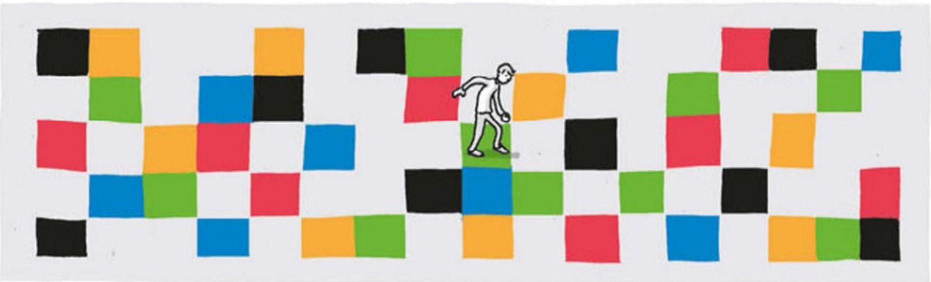


DON'T BE TOO EXPRESSIVE!

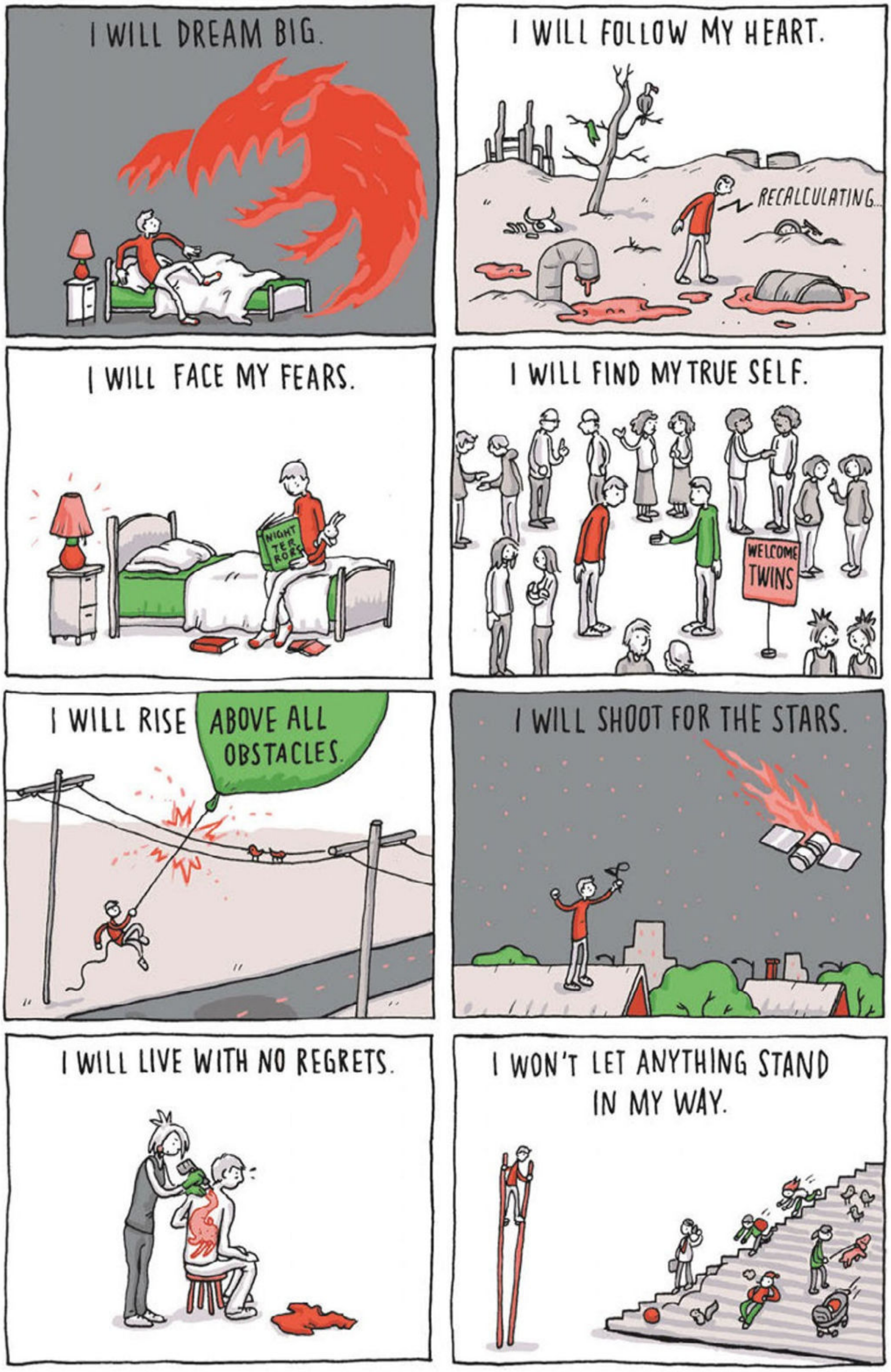


LESS *IS* MORE.

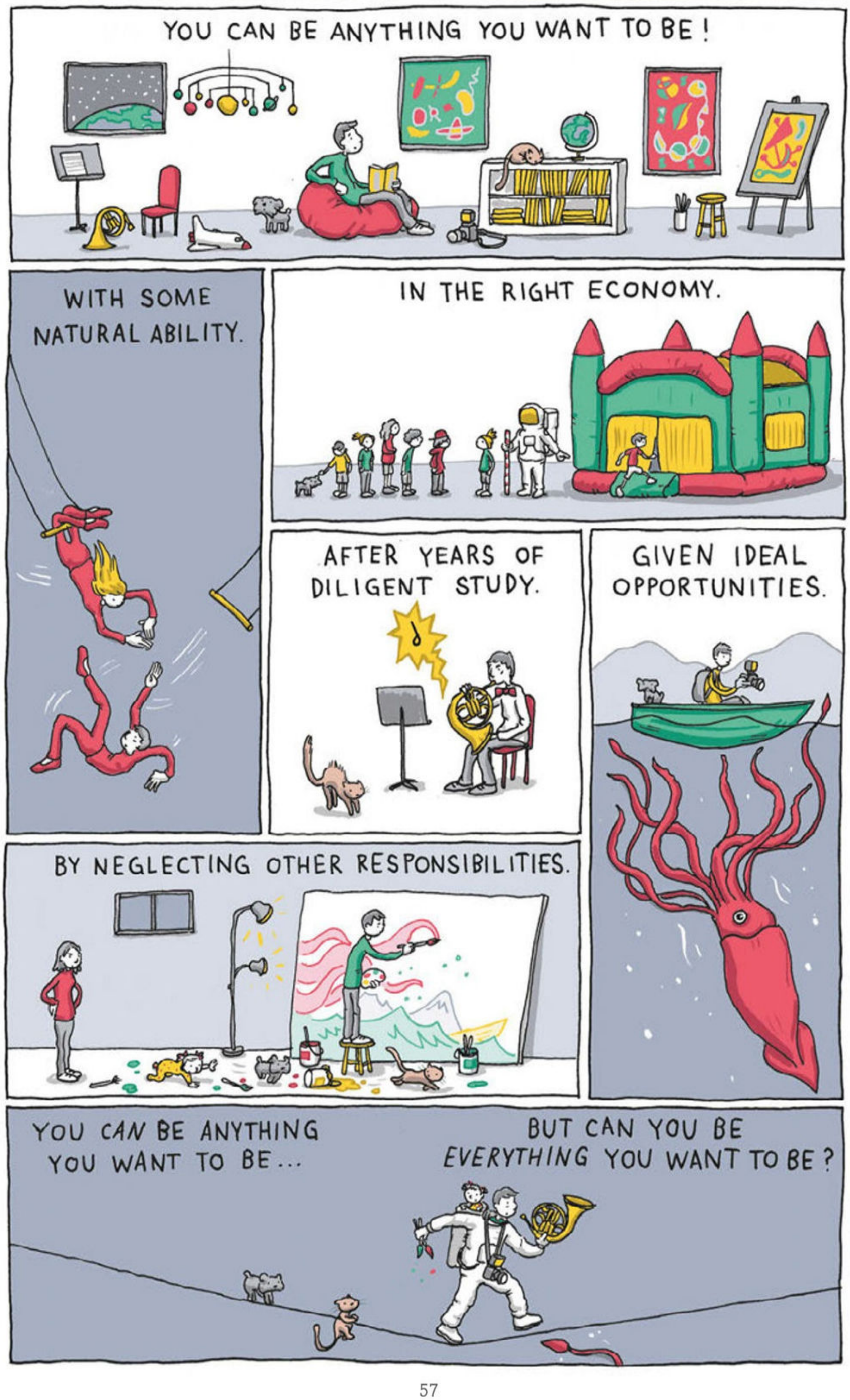
BUT LESS IS MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT LOOKS.



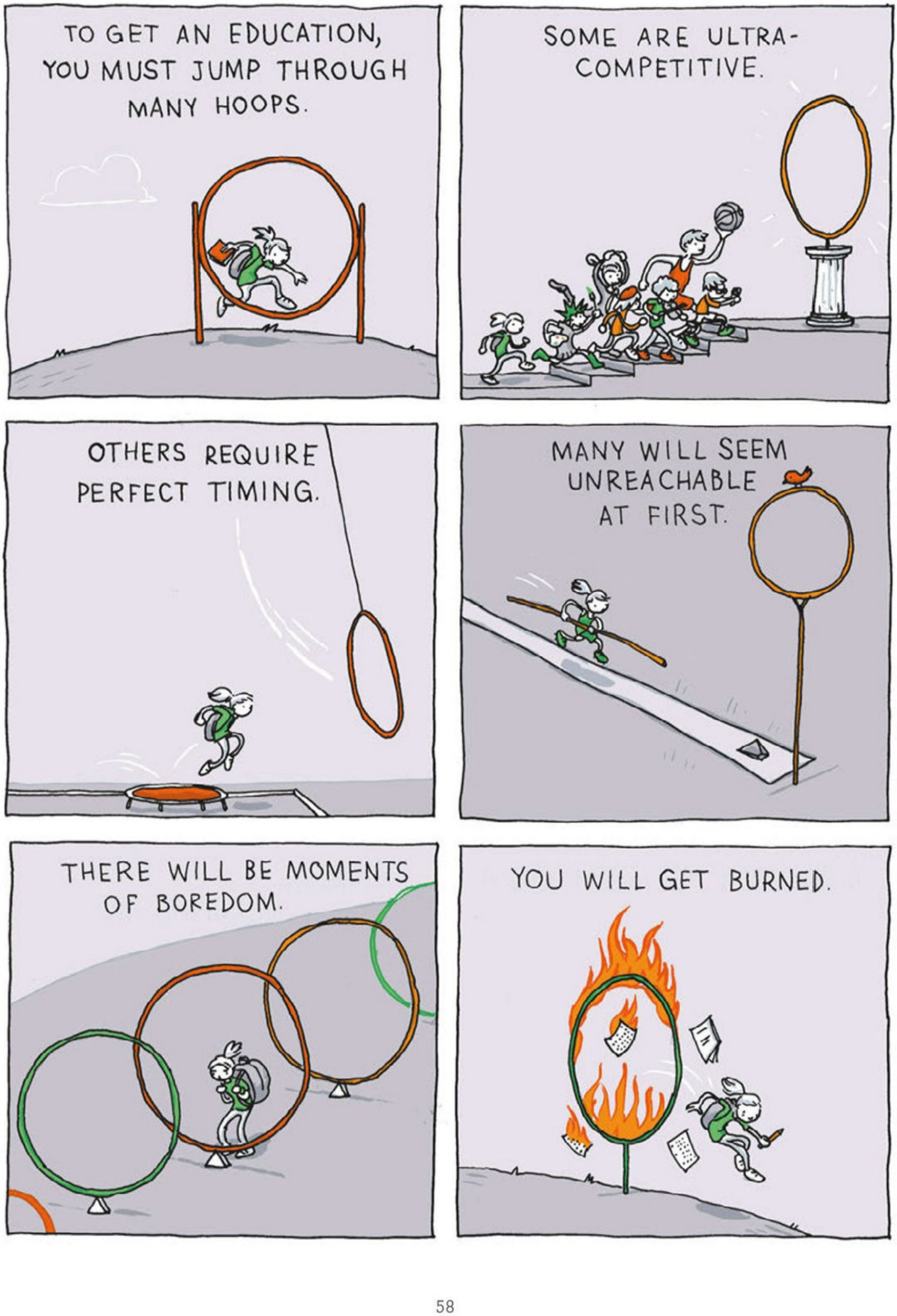
THIS YEAR

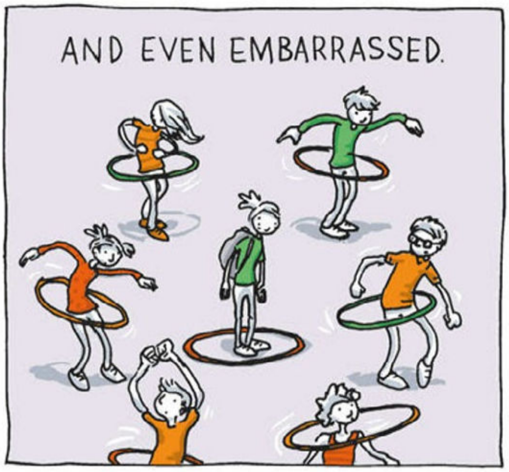

I WILL DREAM BIG.
I WILL FOLLOW MY HEART.
RECALCULATING...
I WILL FACE MY FEARS.
NIGHT TERRORS
I WILL FIND MY TRUE SELF.
WELCOME TWINS
I WILL RISE ABOVE ALL OBSTACLES.
I WILL SHOOT FOR THE STARS.
I WILL LIVE WITH NO REGRETS.
I WON'T LET ANYTHING STAND IN MY WAY.

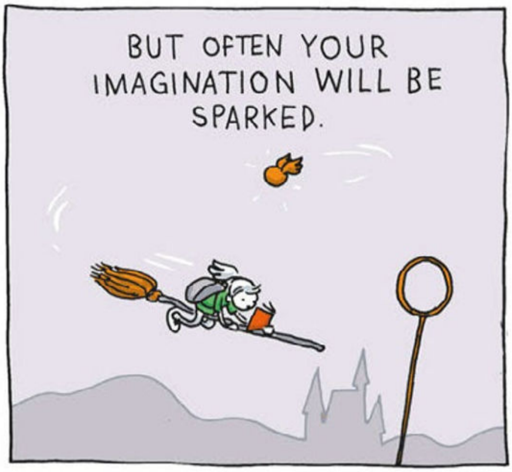
DISCLAIMER

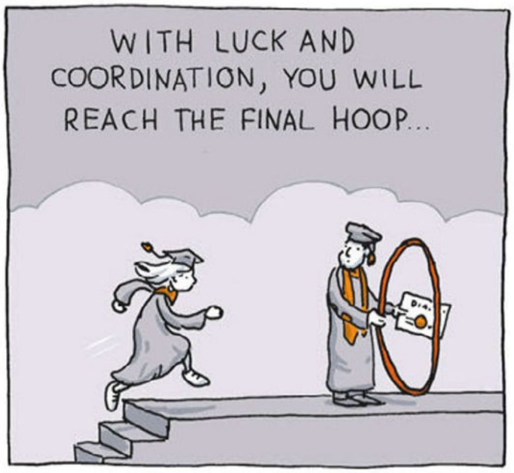

YOU CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO BE!
WITH SOME NATURAL ABILITY.
IN THE RIGHT ECONOMY.
AFTER YEARS OF DILIGENT STUDY.
GIVEN IDEAL OPPORTUNITIES.
BY NEGLECTING OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.
YOU *CAN* BE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO BE...
BUT CAN YOU BE *EVERYTHING* YOU WANT TO BE?

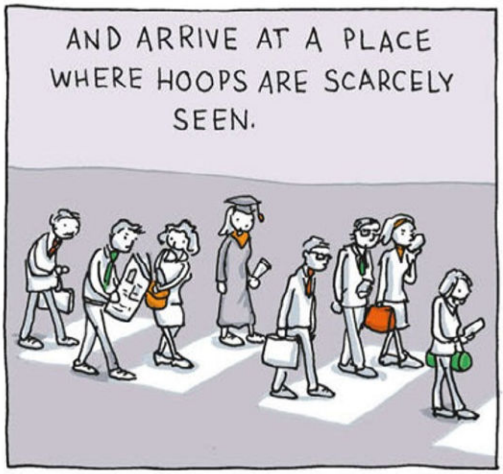
MESSAGE TO A GRADUATE

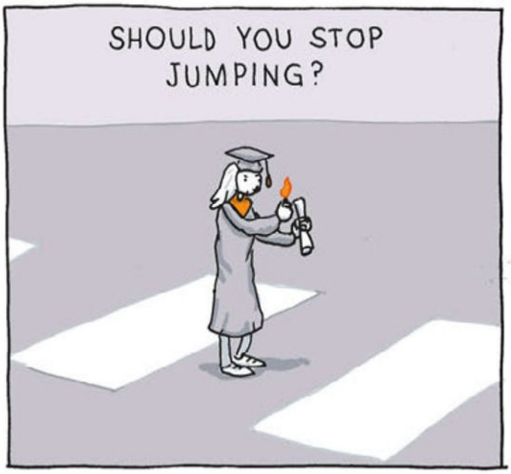

TO GET AN EDUCATION, YOU MUST JUMP THROUGH MANY HOOPS.
SOME ARE ULTRA-COMPETITIVE.
OTHERS REQUIRE PERFECT TIMING.
MANY WILL SEEM UNREACHABLE AT FIRST.
THERE WILL BE MOMENTS OF BOREDOM.
YOU WILL GET BURNED.

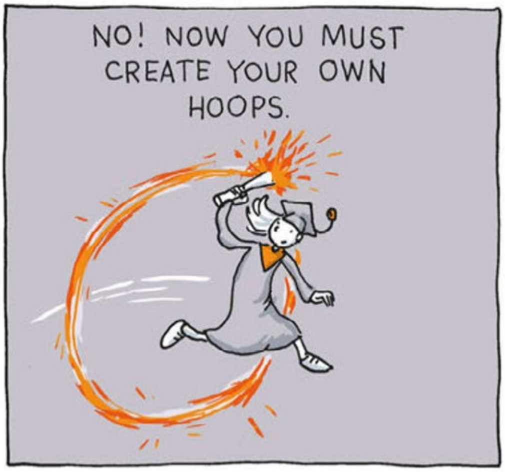

AND EVEN EMBARRASSED.


BUT OFTEN YOUR IMAGINATION WILL BE SPARKED.

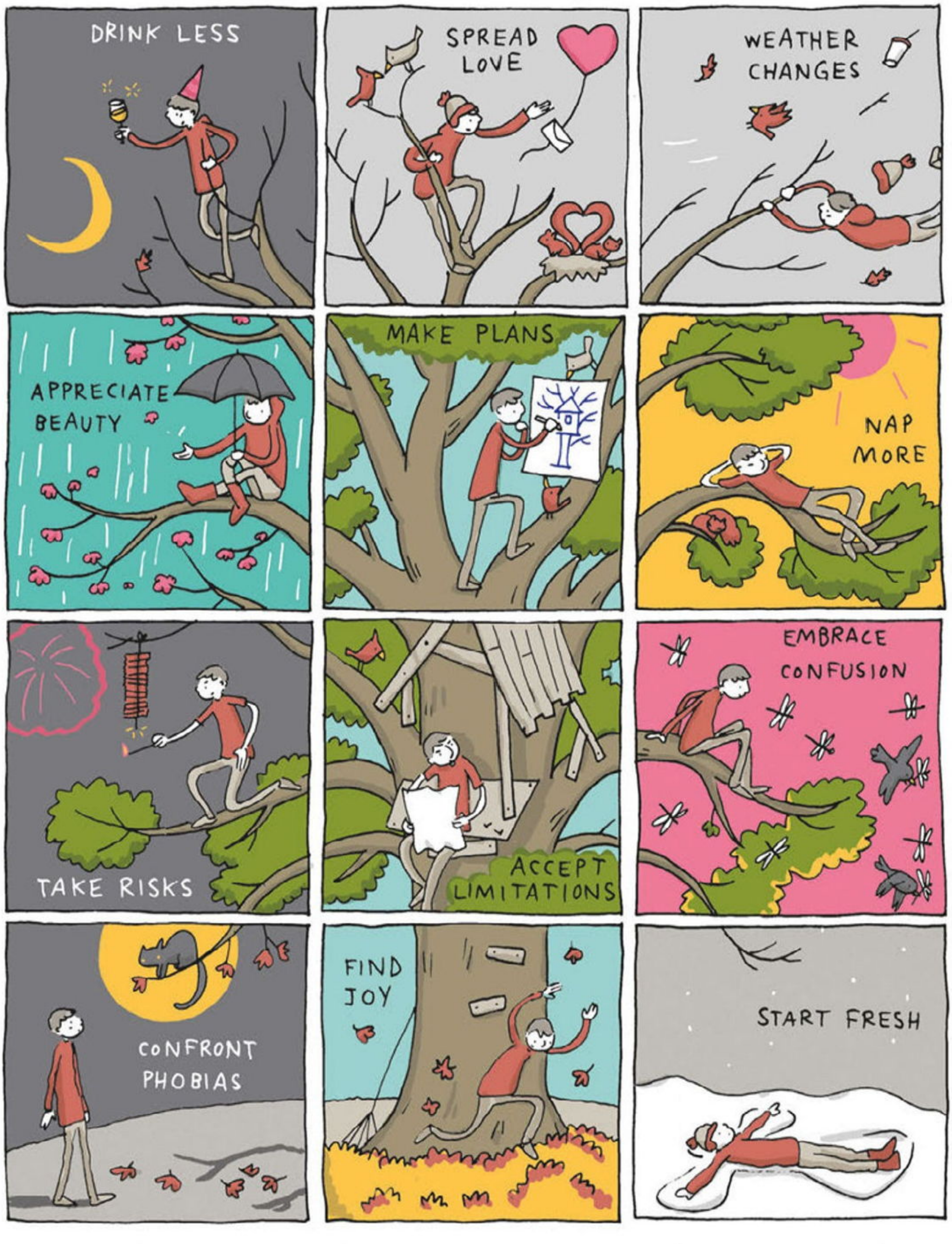

WITH LUCK AND COORDINATION, YOU WILL REACH THE FINAL HOOP...

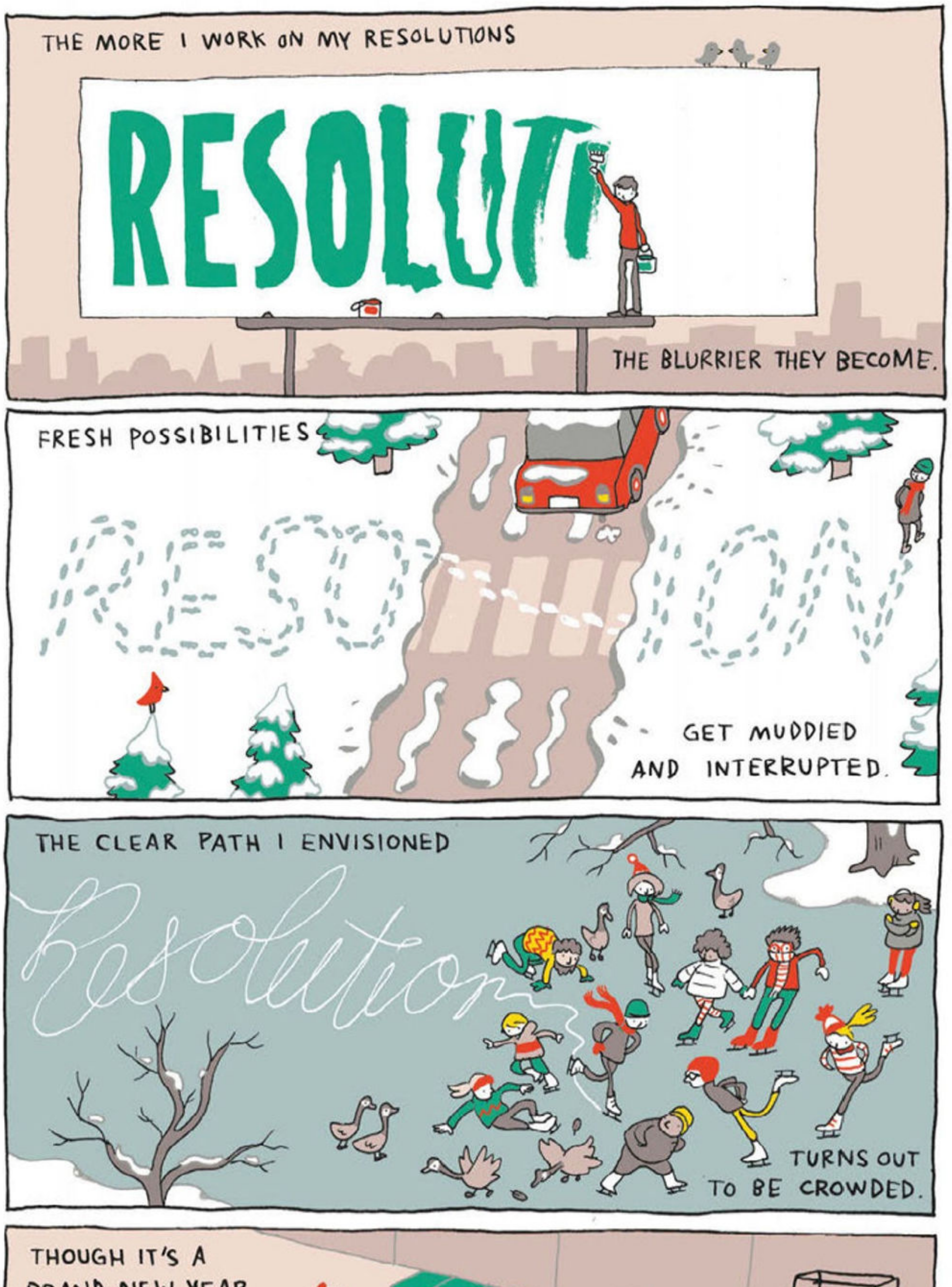

AND ARRIVE AT A PLACE WHERE HOOPS ARE SCARCELY SEEN.


SHOULD YOU STOP JUMPING?

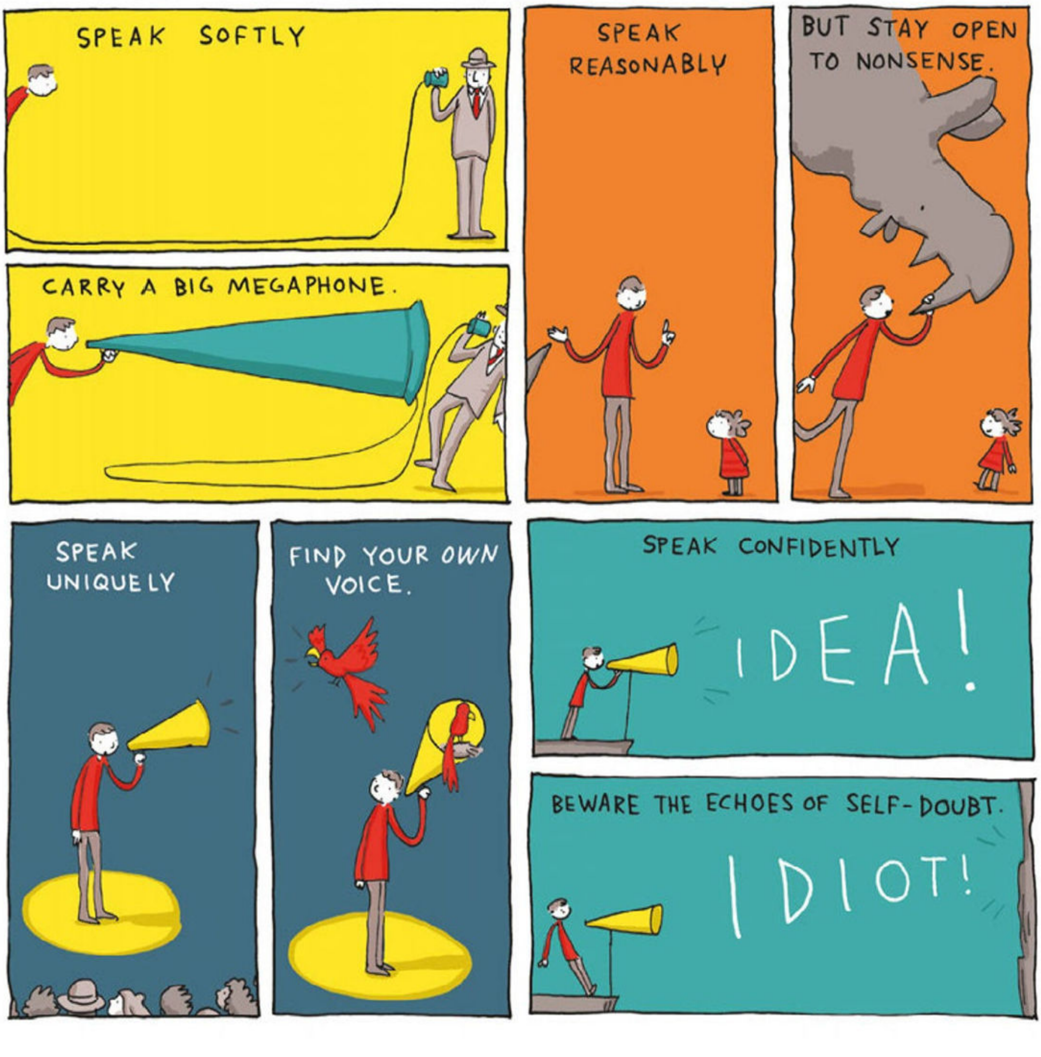

NO! NOW YOU MUST CREATE YOUR OWN HOOPS.

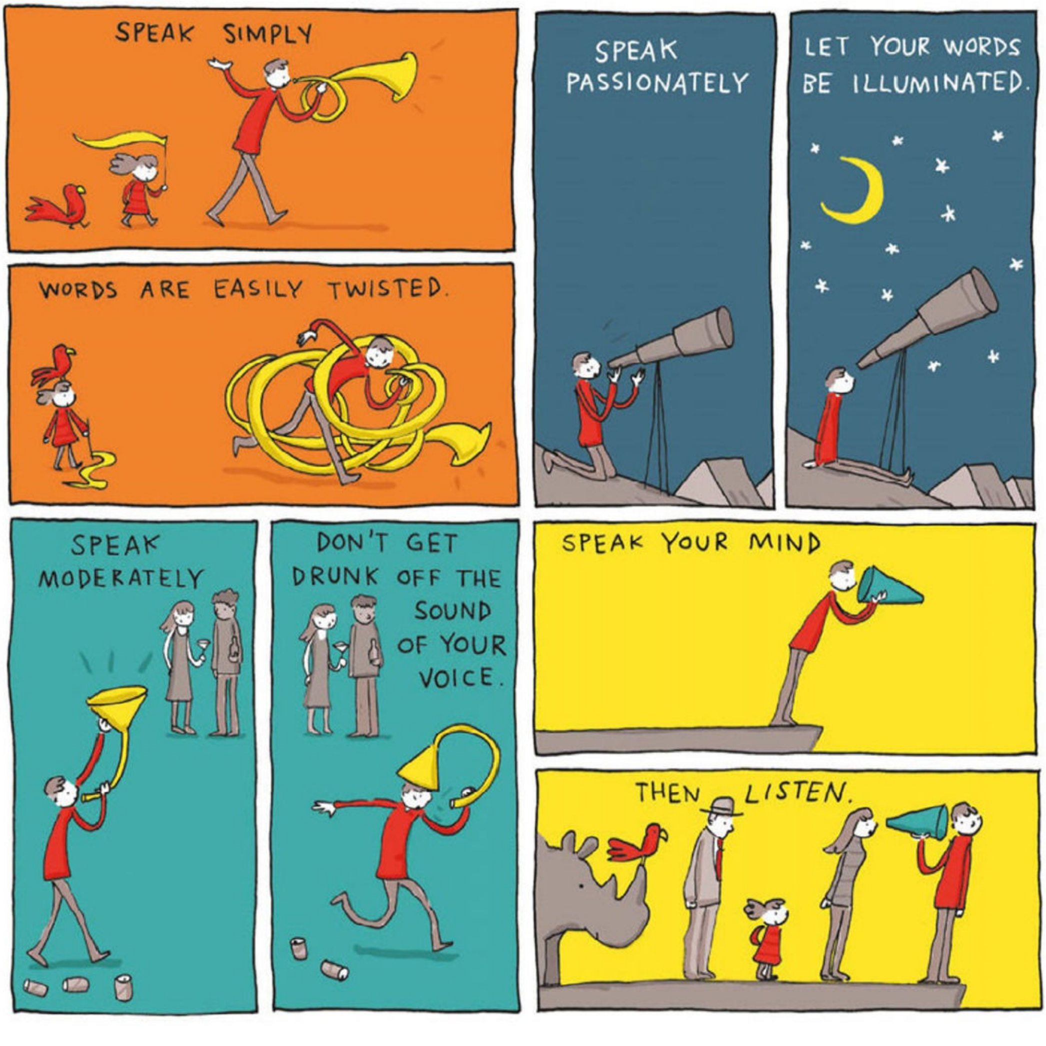
RESOLUTIONS


DRINK LESS
SPREAD LOVE
WEATHER CHANGES
APPRECIATE BEAUTY
MAKE PLANS
NAP MORE
TAKE RISKS
ACCEPT LIMITATIONS
EMBRACE CONFUSION
CONFRONT PHOBIAS
FIND JOY
START FRESH

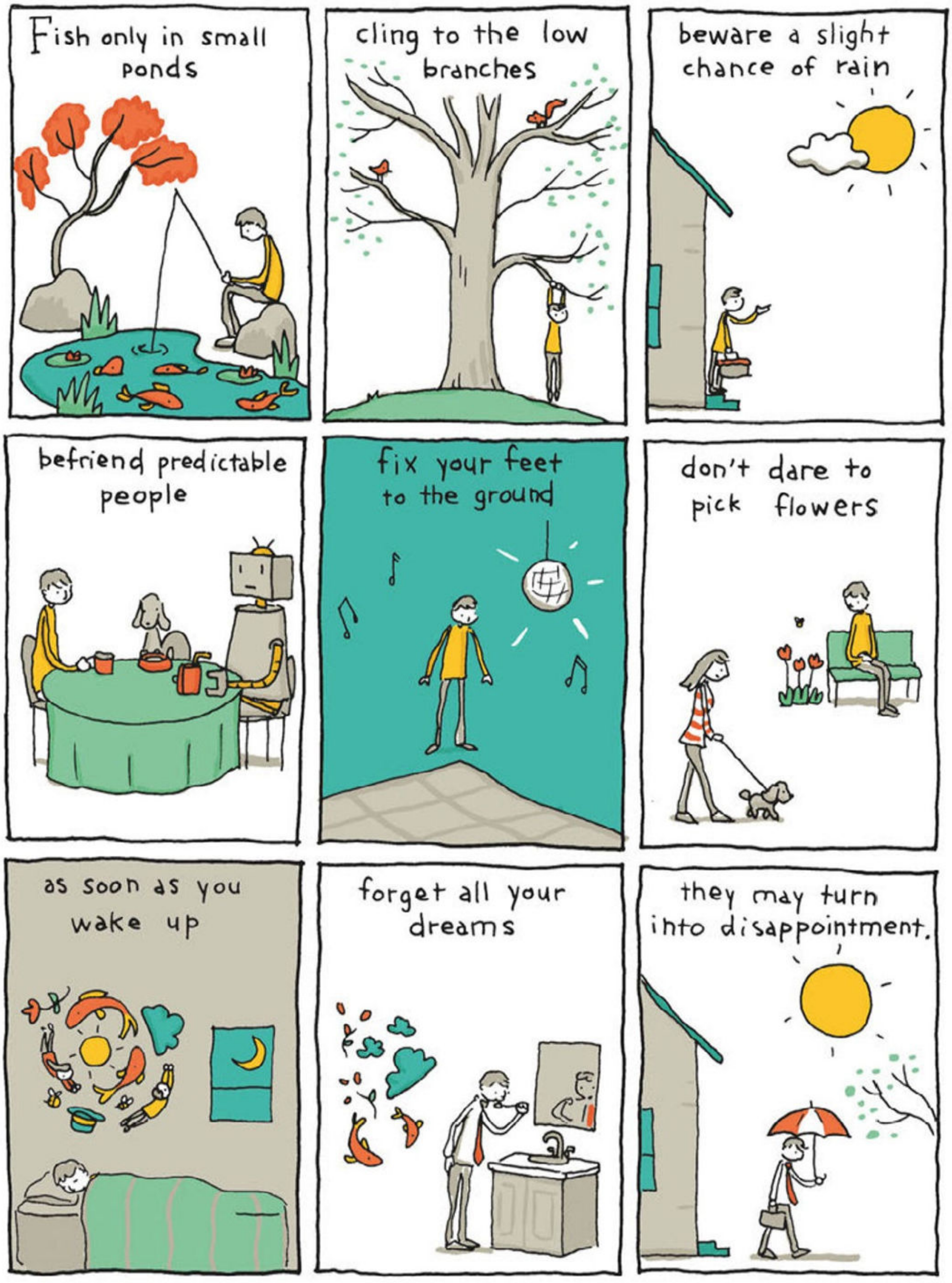

THE MORE I WORK ON MY RESOLUTIONS
RESOLUT
THE BLURRIER THEY BECOME.
FRESH POSSIBILITIES
GET MUDDIED AND INTERRUPTED.
THE CLEAR PATH I ENVISIONED
Resolution
TURNS OUT TO BE CROWDED.
THOUGH IT'S A BRAND-NEW YEAR
I'M STILL THE SAME OLD ME.

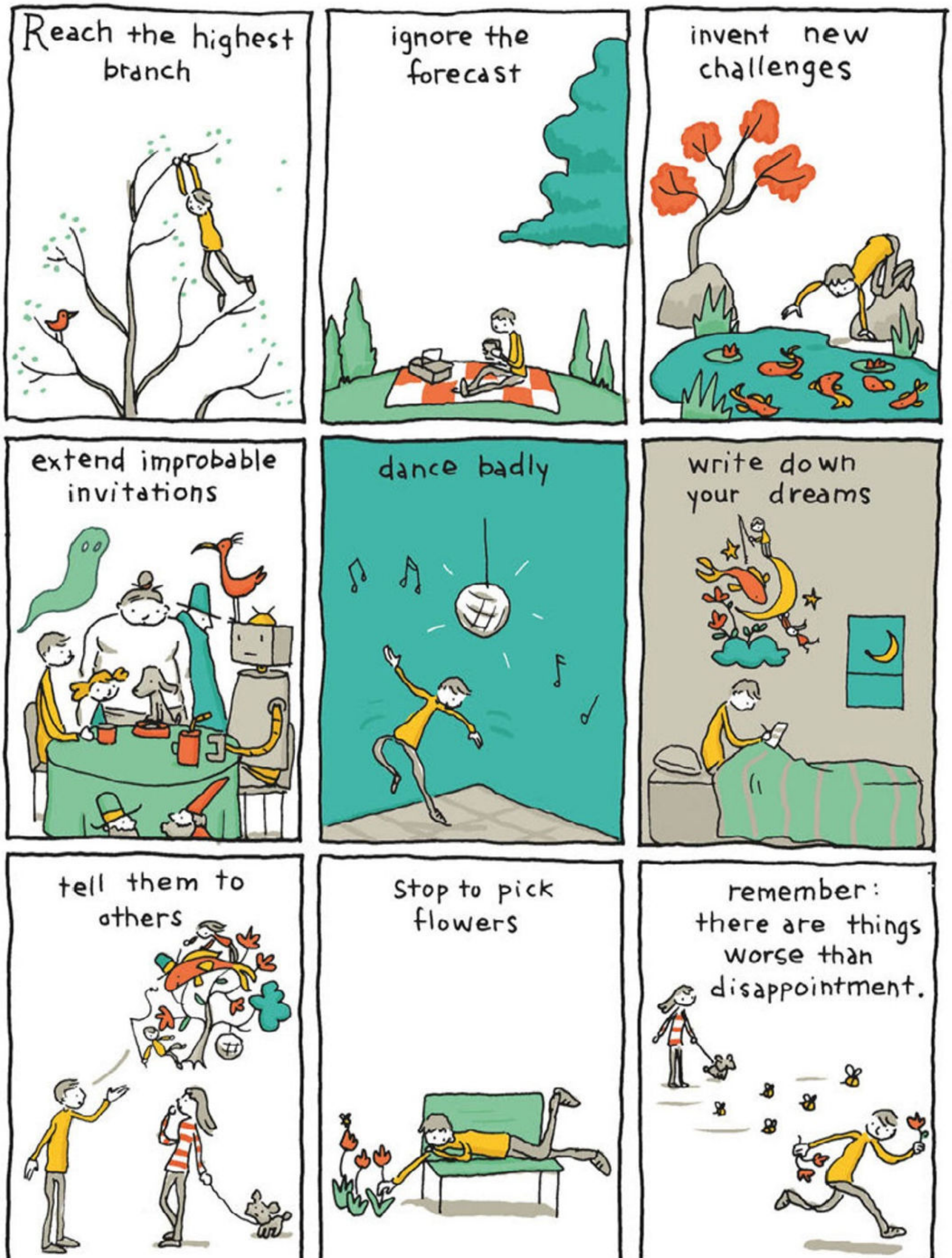
FINDING YOUR VOICE


SPEAK SOFTLY
CARRY A BIG MEGAPHONE.
SPEAK REASONABLY
BUT STAY OPEN TO NONSENSE.
SPEAK UNIQUELY
FIND YOUR OWN VOICE.
SPEAK CONFIDENTLY
IDEA!
BEWARE THE ECHOES OF SELF-DOUBT.
IDIOT!

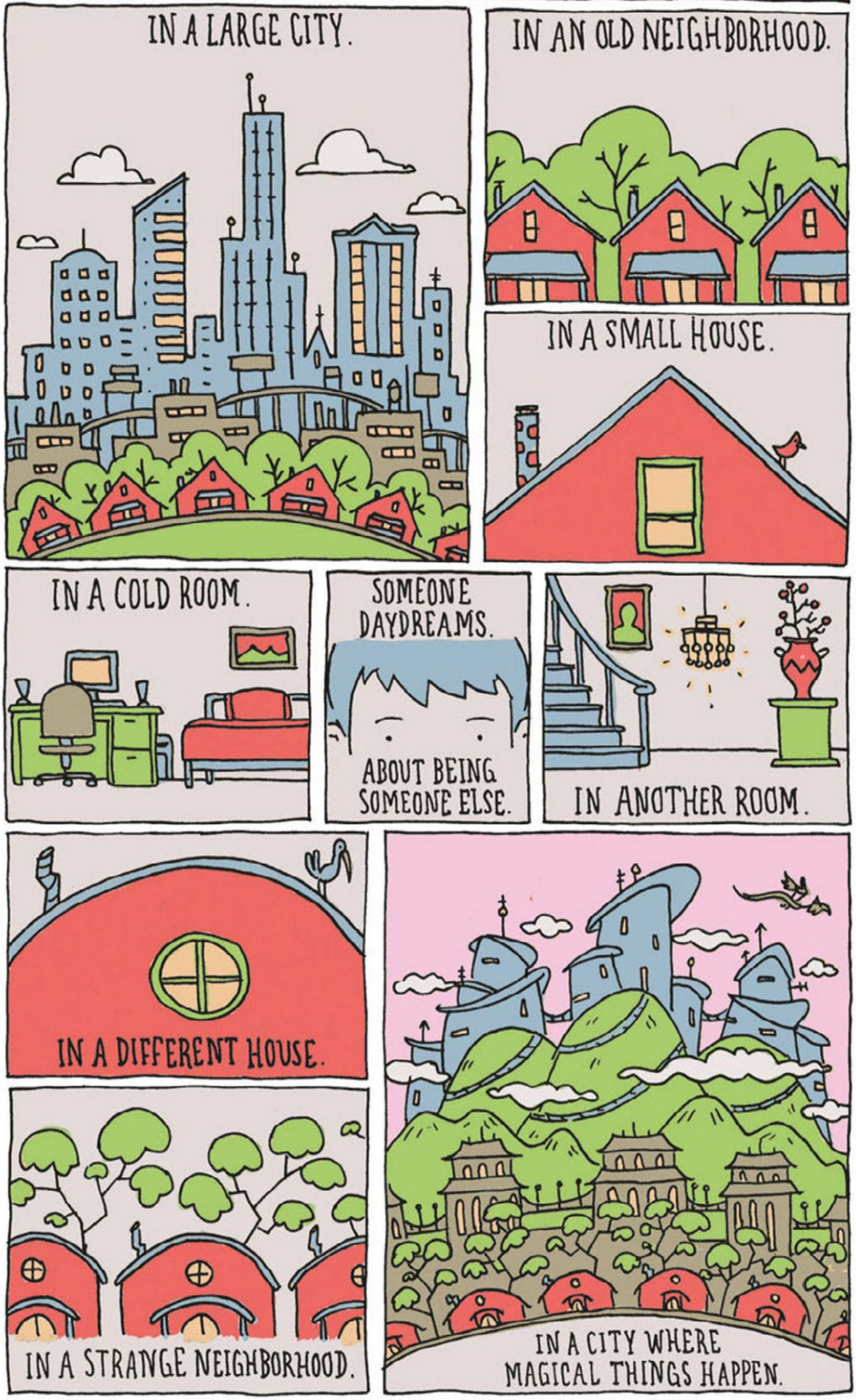

SPEAK SIMPLY
WORDS ARE EASILY TWISTED.
SPEAK PASSIONATELY
LET YOUR WORDS BE ILLUMINATED.
SPEAK MODERATELY
DON'T GET DRUNK OFF THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE.
SPEAK YOUR MIND
THEN LISTEN.

THEORIES OF DISAPPOINTMENT

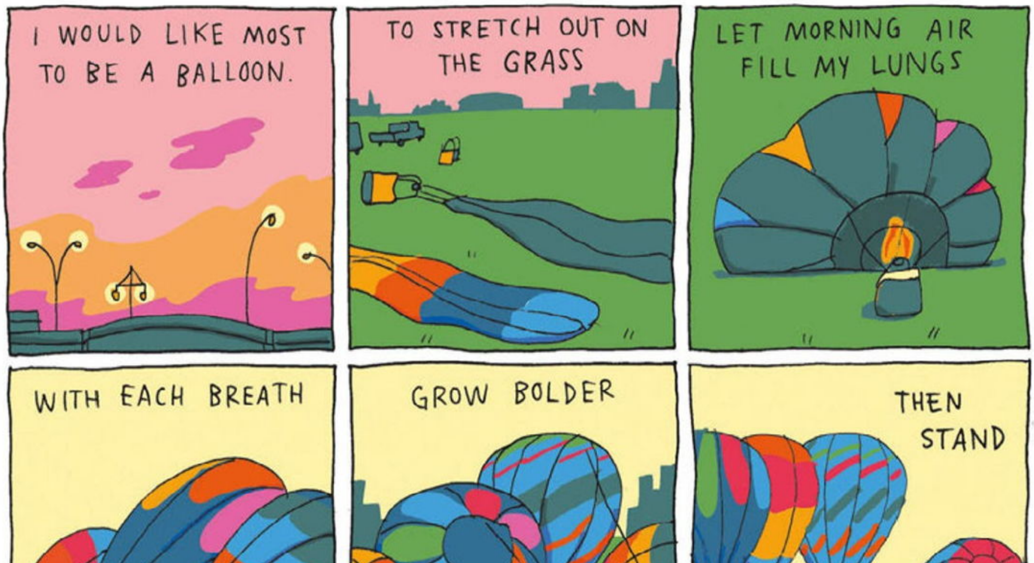

Fish only in small ponds
cling to the low branches
beware a slight chance of rain
befriend predictable people
fix your feet to the ground
don't dare to pick flowers
as soon as you wake up
forget all your dreams
they may turn into disappointment.

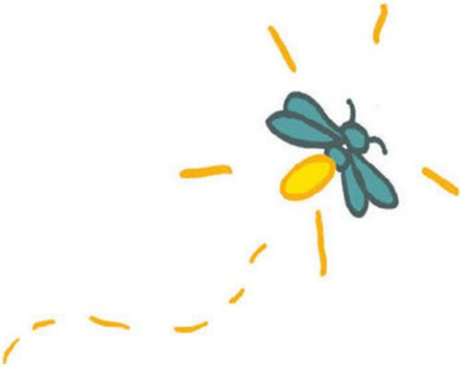

Reach the highest branch
ignore the forecast
invent new challenges
extend improbable invitations
dance badly
write down your dreams
tell them to others
Stop to pick flowers
remember: there are things worse than disappointment.

DAYDREAM


IN A LARGE CITY.
IN AN OLD NEIGHBORHOOD.
IN A SMALL HOUSE.
IN A COLD ROOM.
SOMEONE DAYDREAMS.
ABOUT BEING SOMEONE ELSE.
IN ANOTHER ROOM.
IN A DIFFERENT HOUSE.
IN A STRANGE NEIGHBORHOOD.
IN A CITY WHERE MAGICAL THINGS HAPPEN.

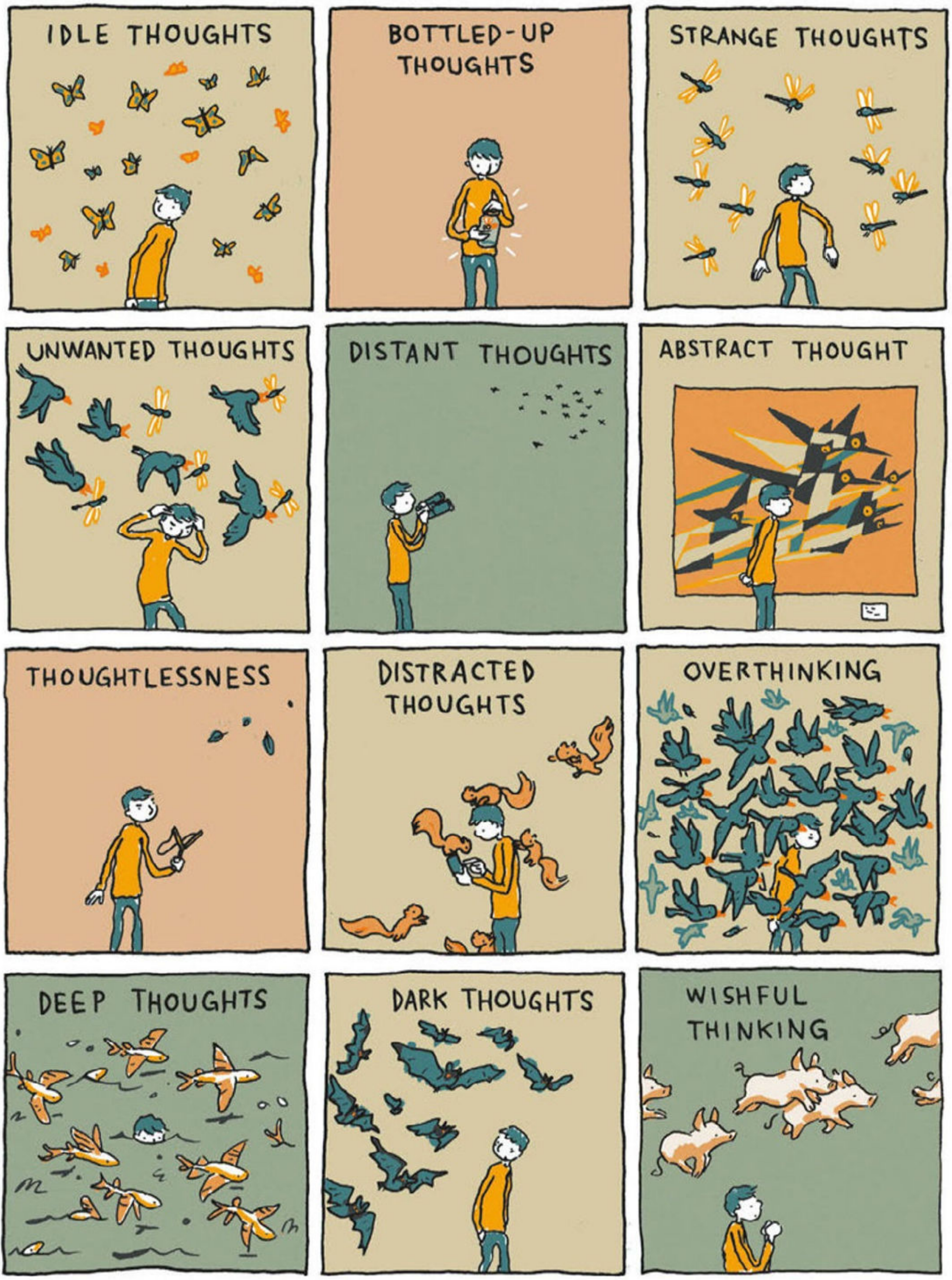
Lightness

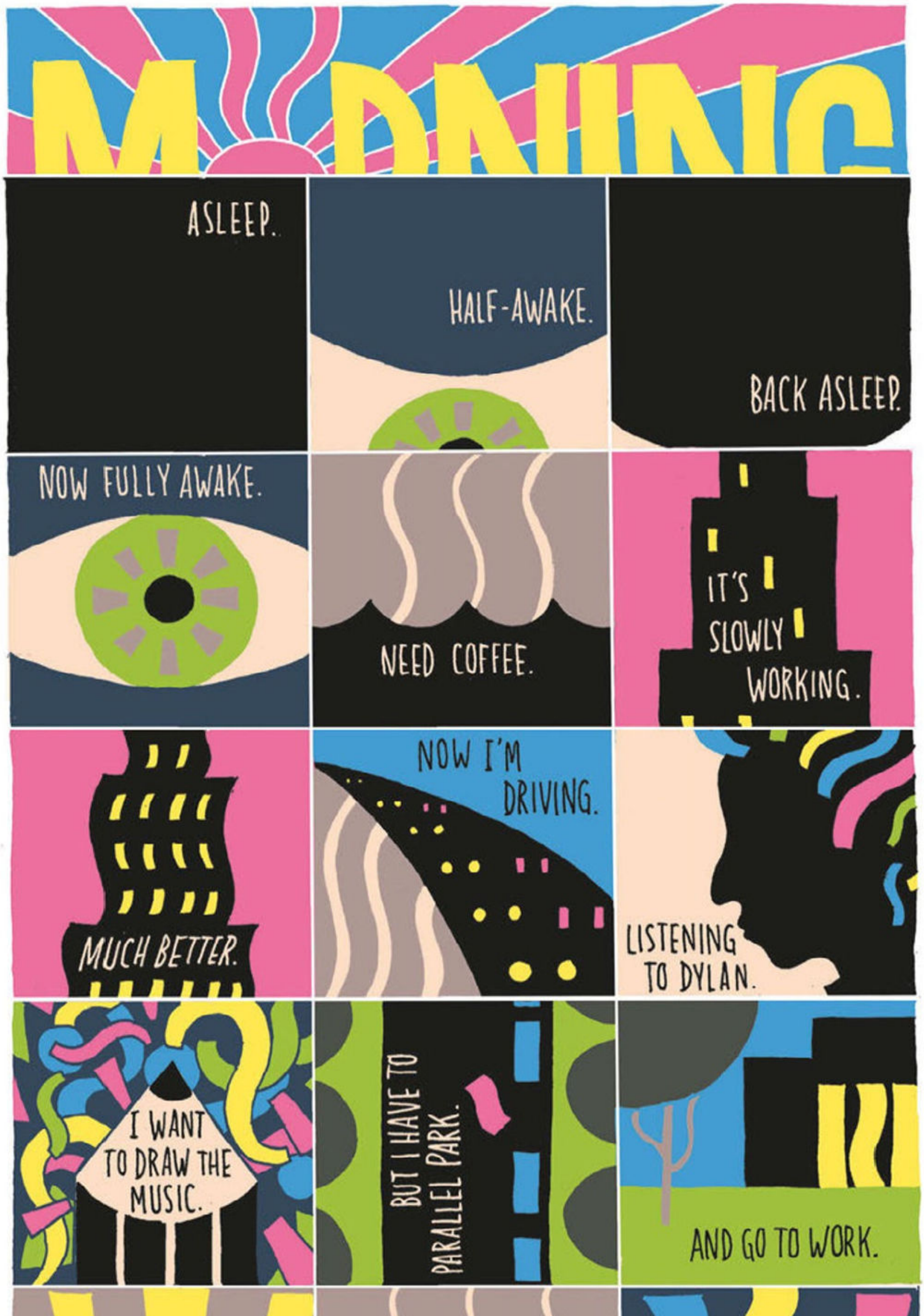

I WOULD LIKE MOST TO BE A BALLOON.
TO STRETCH OUT ON THE GRASS
LET MORNING AIR FILL MY LUNGS
WITH EACH BREATH
GROW BOLDER
THEN STAND
AND TAKE OFF
ON AN UNCOMMON PATH
TOWARD A WILD NEW HORIZON.



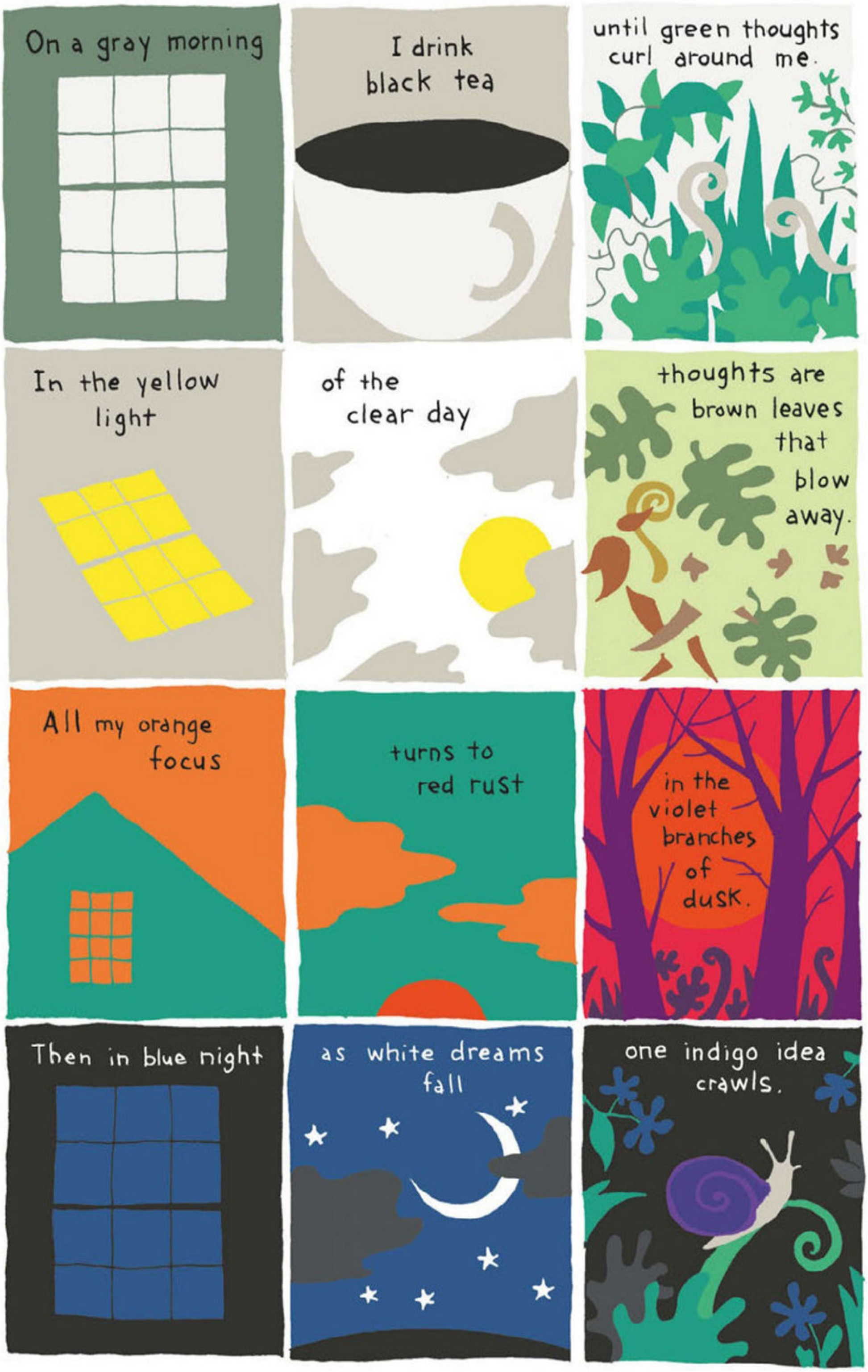
CONTEMPLATION

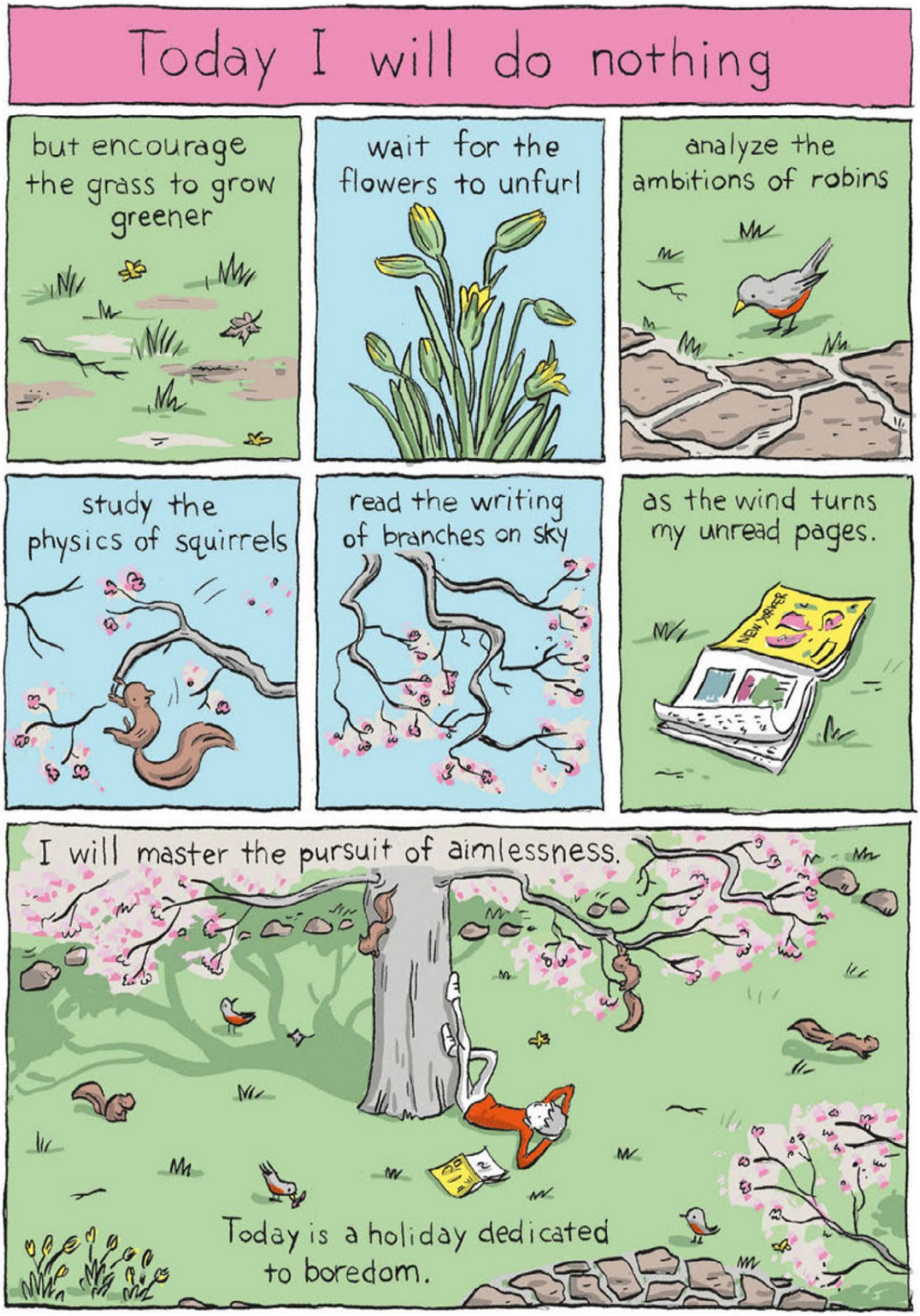
collecting my thoughts


IDLE THOUGHTS
BOTTLED-UP THOUGHTS
STRANGE THOUGHTS
UNWANTED THOUGHTS
DISTANT THOUGHTS
ABSTRACT THOUGHT
THOUGHTLESSNESS
DISTRACTED THOUGHTS
OVERTHINKING
DEEP THOUGHTS
DARK THOUGHTS
WISHFUL THINKING

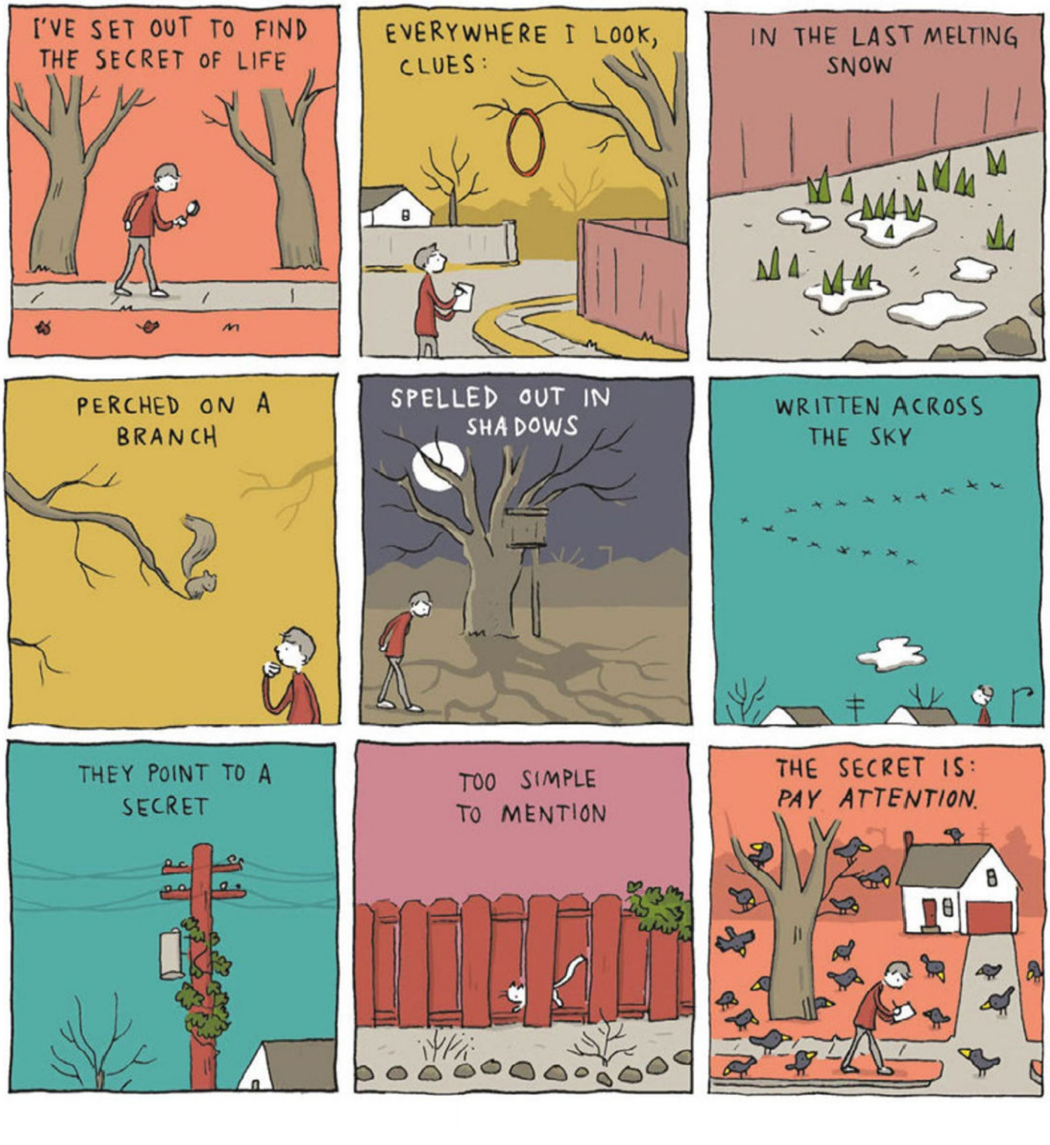

MORNING
ASLEEP.
HALF-AWAKE.
BACK ASLEEP.
NOW FULLY AWAKE.
NEED COFFEE.
IT'S SLOWLY WORKING.
MUCH BETTER.
NOW I'M DRIVING.
LISTENING TO DYLAN.
I WANT TO DRAW THE MUSIC.
BUT I HAVE TO PARALLEL PARK.
AND GO TO WORK.
UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.
I THINK I NEED MORE COFFEE.
MUCH BETTER.

COLORS

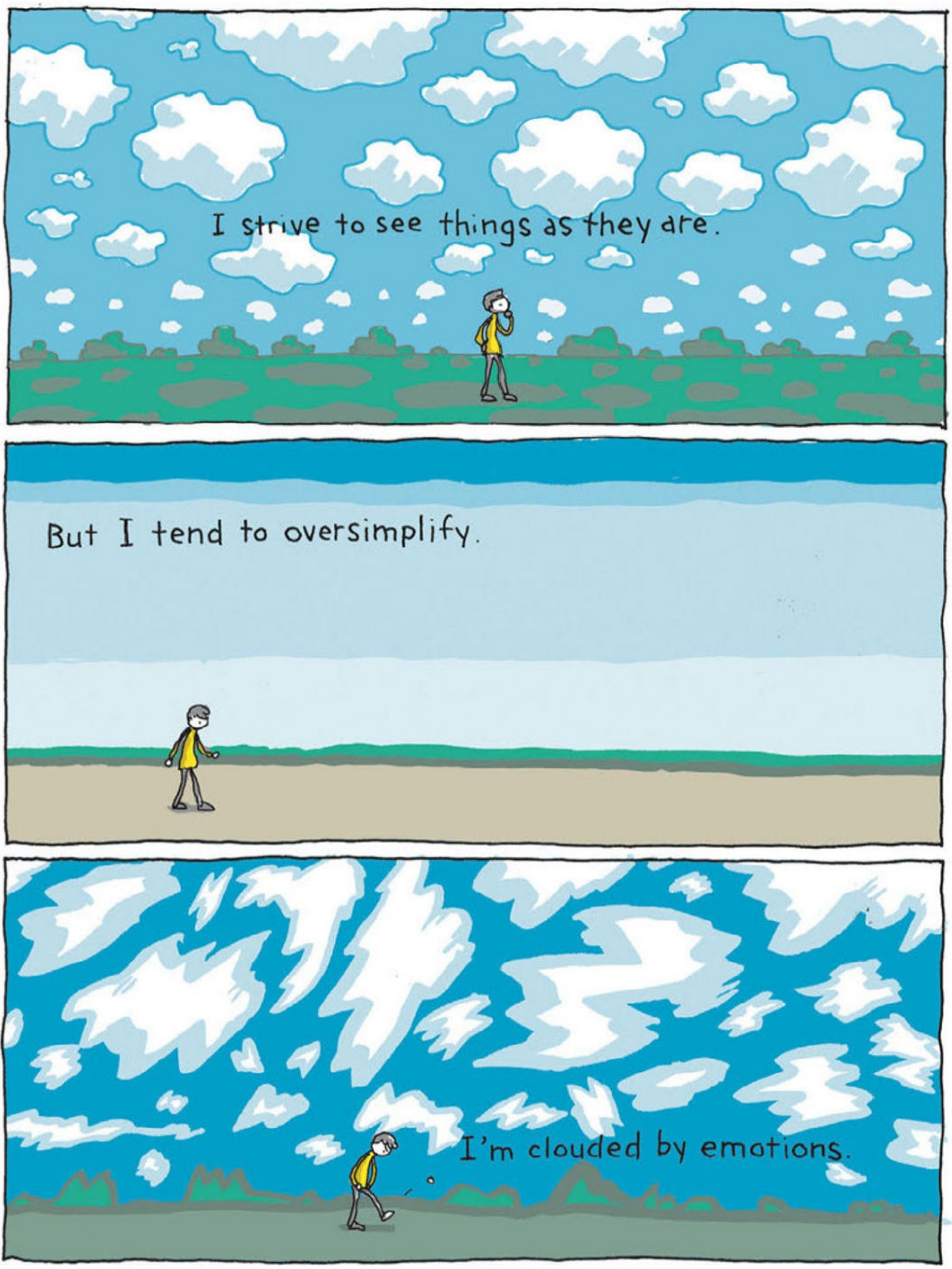

On a gray morning
I drink black tea
until green thoughts curl around me.
In the yellow light
of the clear day
thoughts are brown leaves that blow away.
All my orange focus
turns to red rust
in the violet branches of dusk.
Then in blue night
as white dreams fall
one indigo idea crawls.

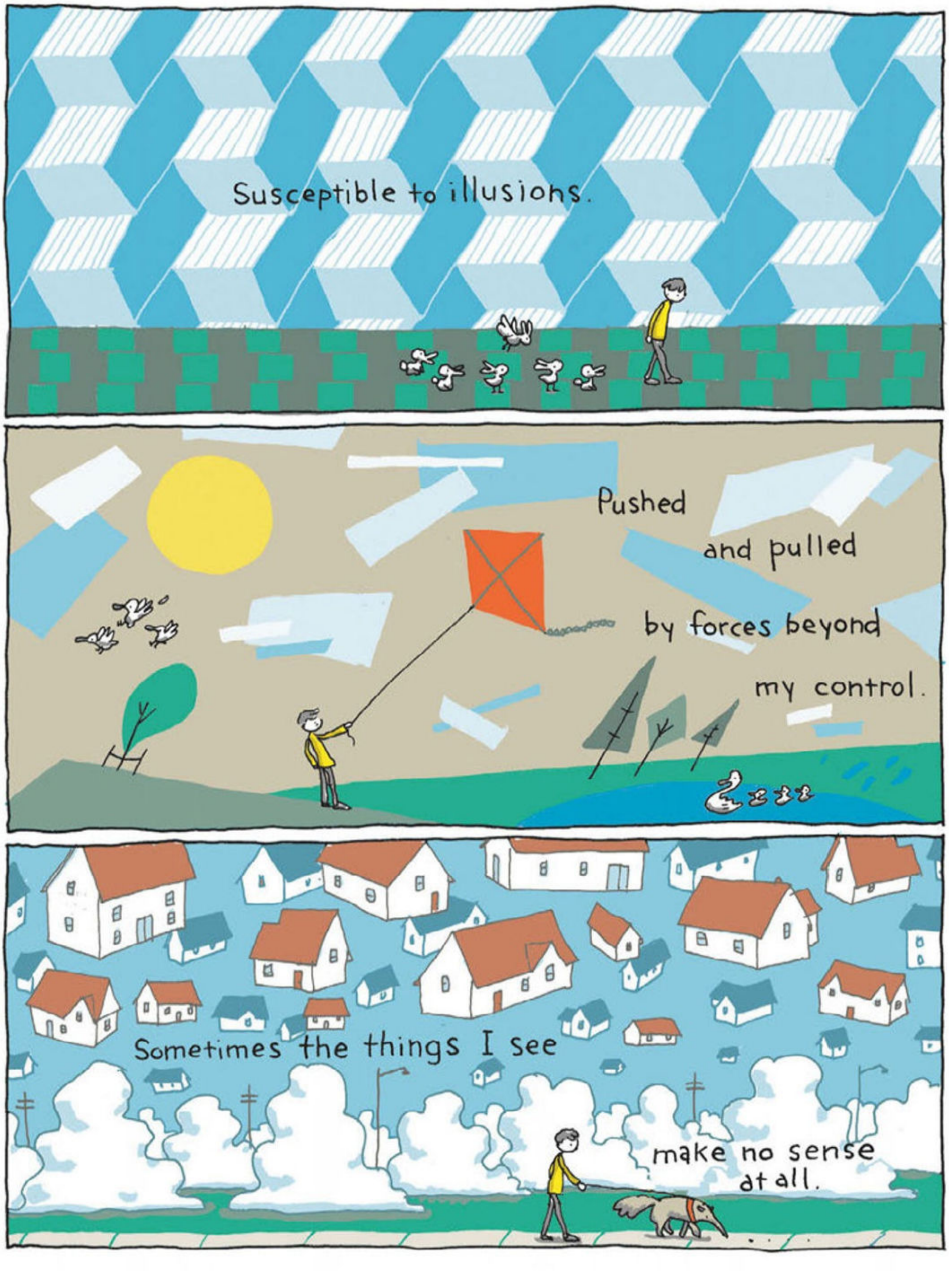

Today I will do nothing
but encourage the grass to grow greener
wait for the flowers to unfurl
analyze the ambitions of robins
study the physics of squirrels
read the writing of branches on sky
as the wind turns my unread pages.
NEW YORKER
I will master the pursuit of aimlessness.
Today is a holiday dedicated to boredom.

THE SECRET

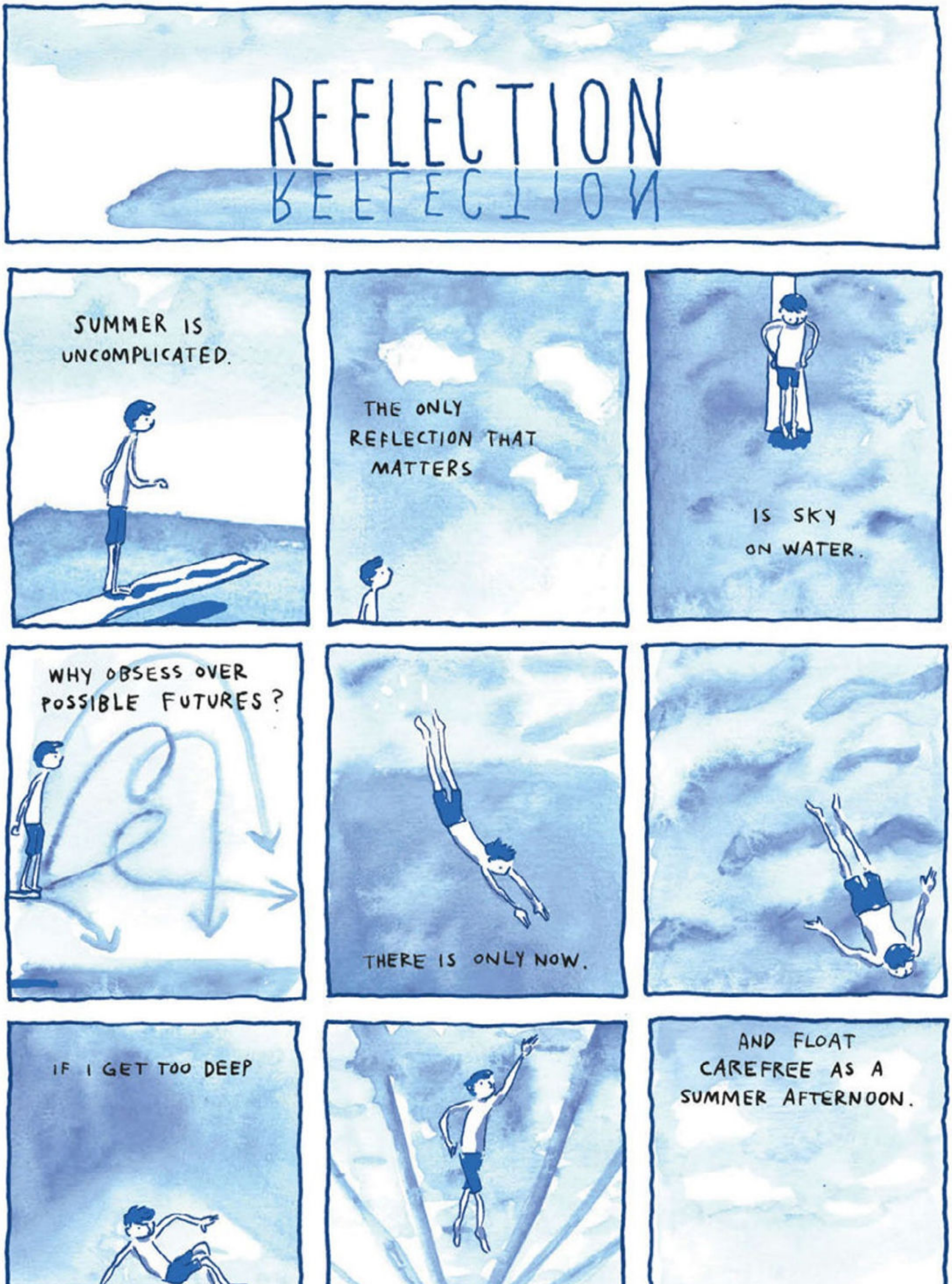

I'VE SET OUT TO FIND THE SECRET OF LIFE
EVERYWHERE I LOOK, CLUES:
IN THE LAST MELTING SNOW
PERCHED ON A BRANCH
SPELLED OUT IN SHADOWS
WRITTEN ACROSS THE SKY
THEY POINT TO A SECRET
TOO SIMPLE TO MENTION
THE SECRET IS: PAY ATTENTION.

THE PROBLEM OF PERCEPTION

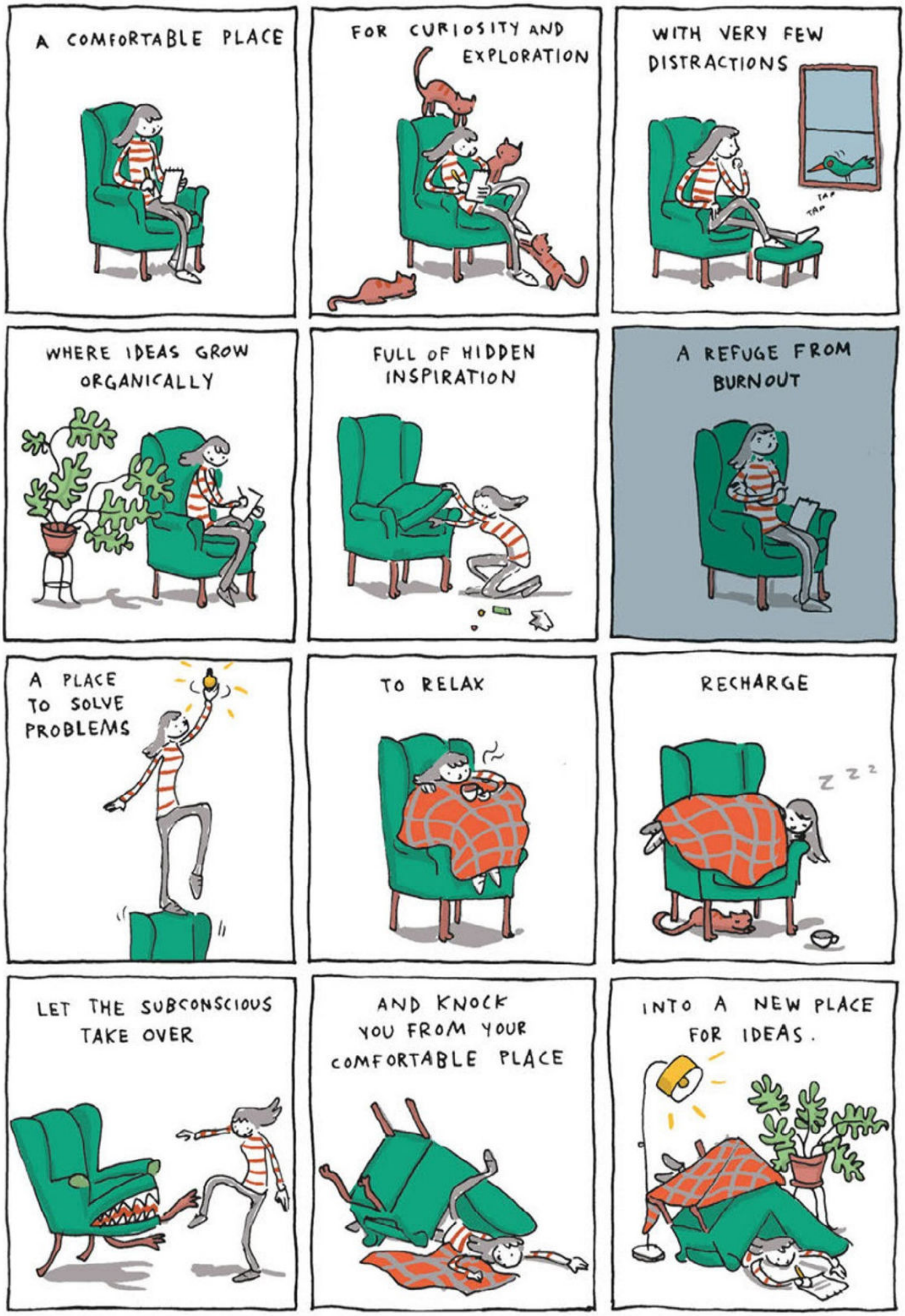

I strive to see things as they are.
But I tend to oversimplify.
I'm clouded by emotions.


Susceptible to illusions.
Pushed
and pulled
by forces beyond
my control.
Sometimes the things I see
make no sense
at all.

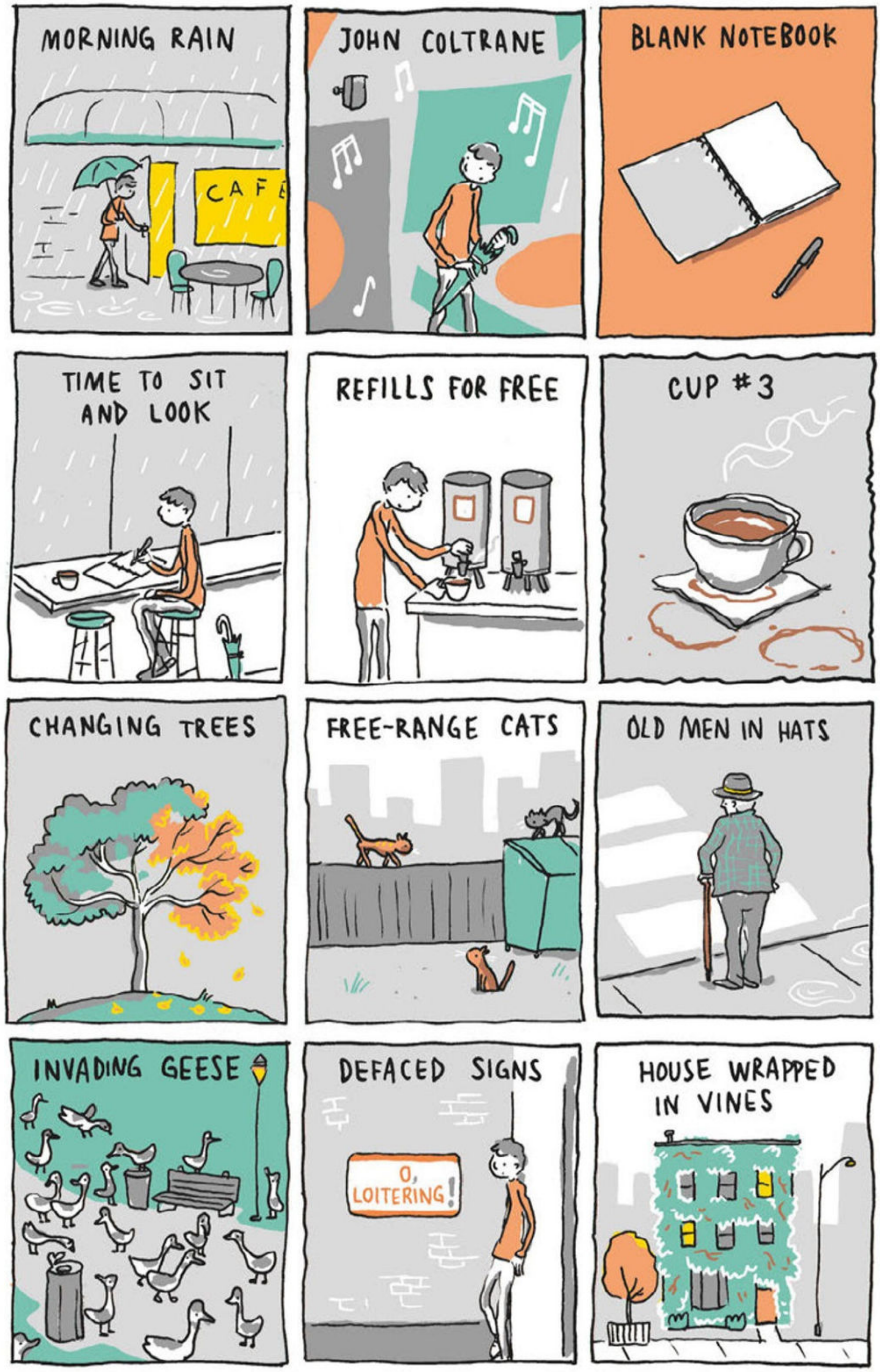
REFLECTION

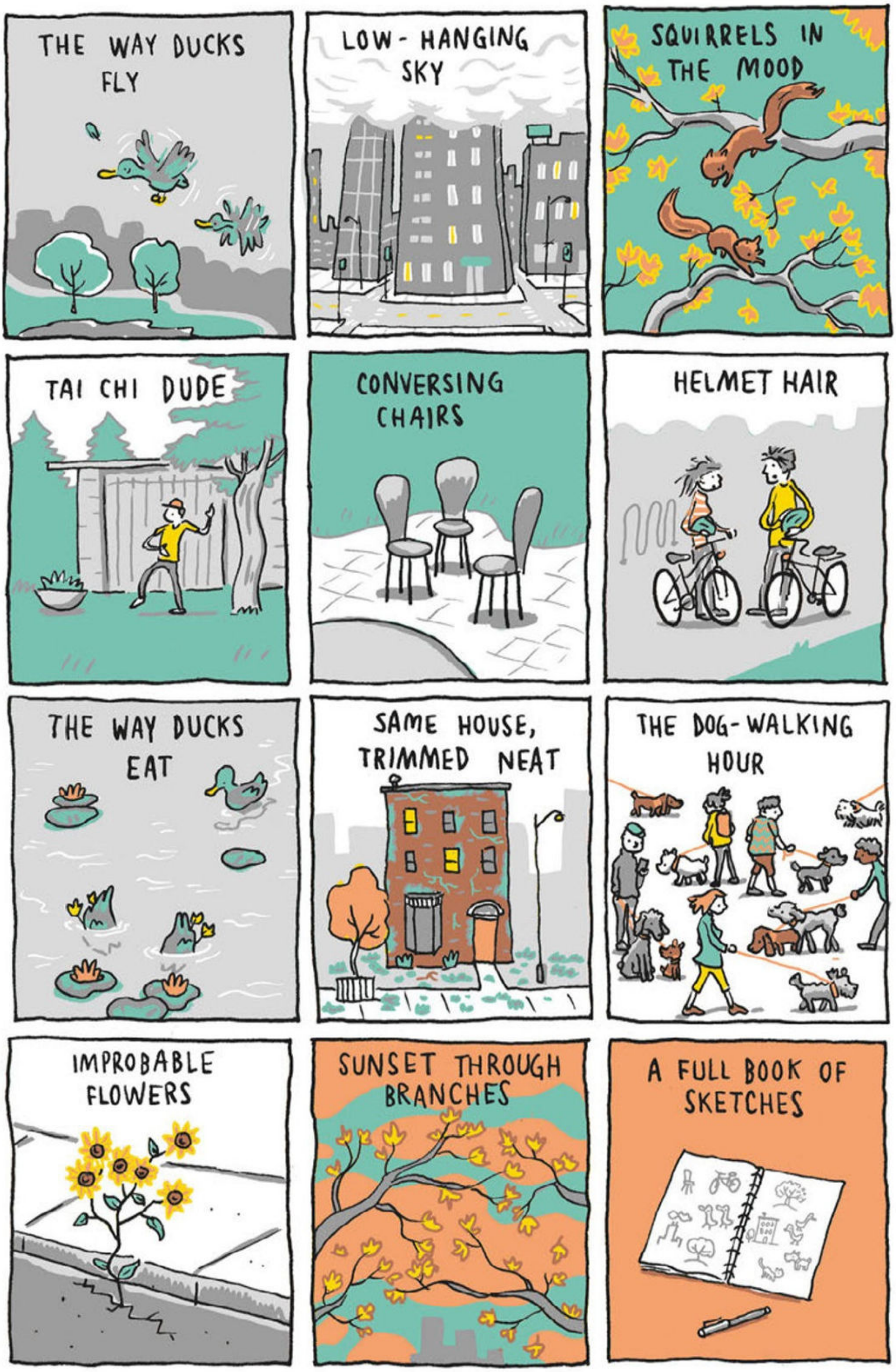

REFLECTION
SUMMER IS UNCOMPLICATED.
THE ONLY REFLECTION THAT MATTERS
IS SKY ON WATER.
WHY OBSESS OVER POSSIBLE FUTURES?
THERE IS ONLY NOW.
IF I GET TOO DEEP
I WILL FIND THE SURFACE
AND FLOAT CAREFREE AS A SUMMER AFTERNOON.

a place for ideas

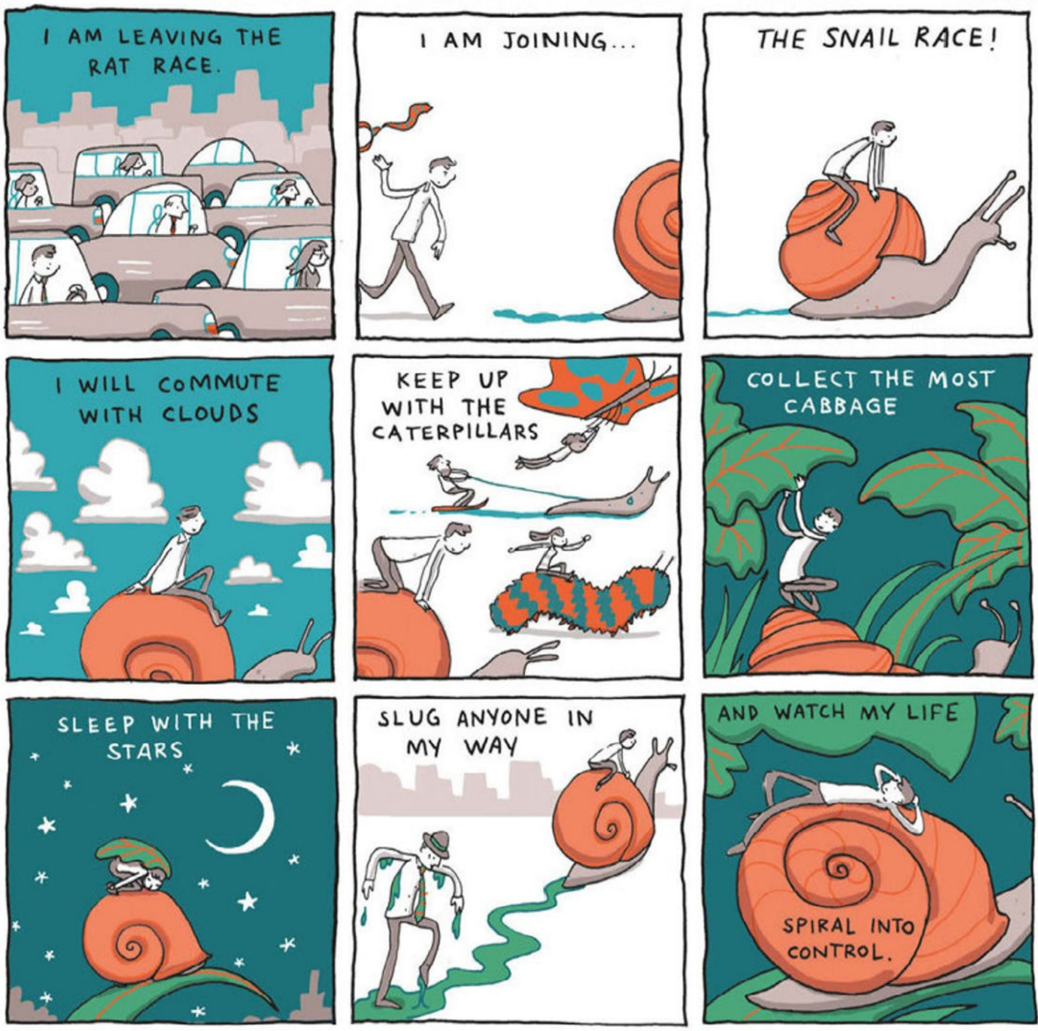

A COMFORTABLE PLACE
FOR CURIOSITY AND EXPLORATION
WITH VERY FEW DISTRACTIONS
TAP
TAP
WHERE IDEAS GROW ORGANICALLY
FULL OF HIDDEN INSPIRATION
A REFUGE FROM BURNOUT
A PLACE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS
TO RELAX
RECHARGE
Z Z Z
LET THE SUBCONSCIOUS TAKE OVER
AND KNOCK YOU FROM YOUR COMFORTABLE PLACE
INTO A NEW PLACE FOR IDEAS.

My Favorite Things

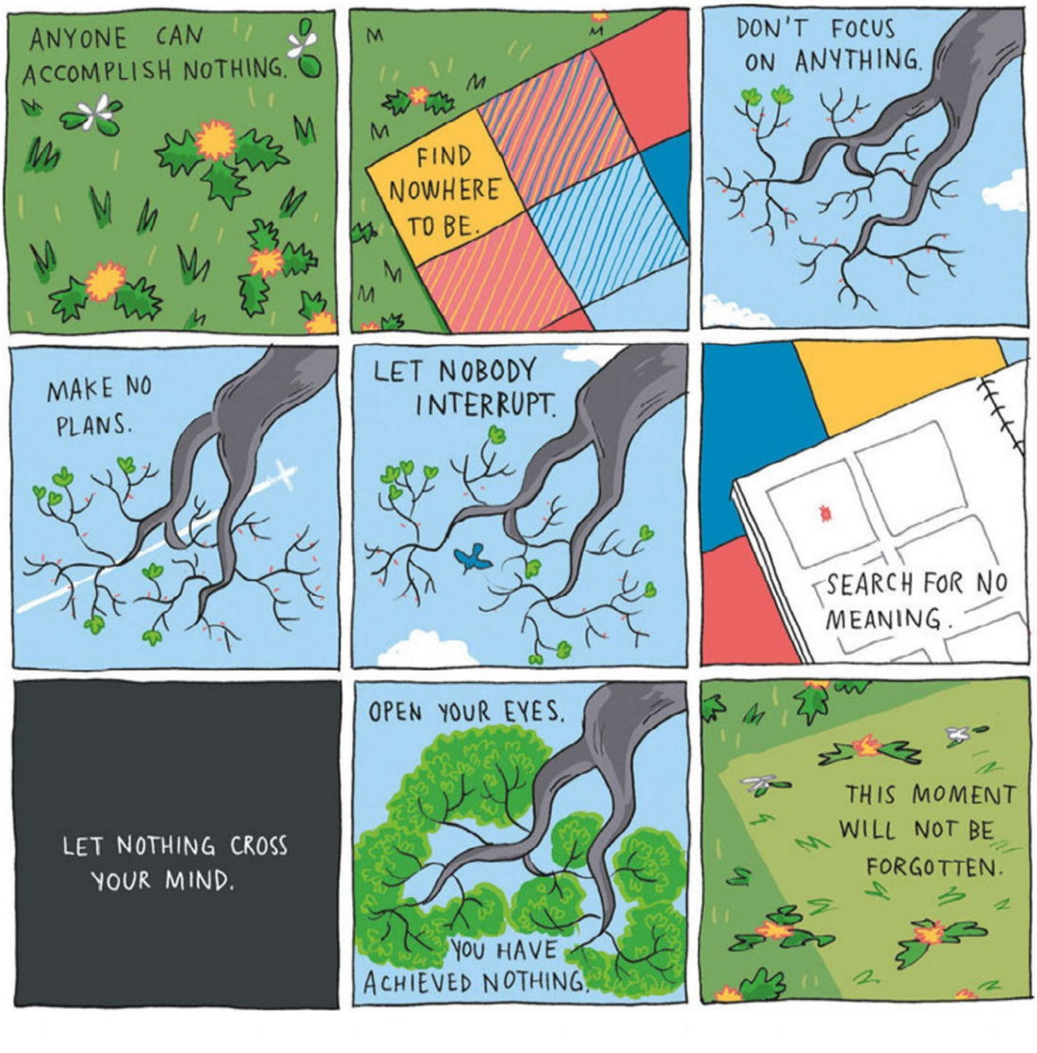

MORNING RAIN
CAFE
JOHN COLTRANE
BLANK NOTEBOOK
TIME TO SIT AND LOOK
REFILLS FOR FREE
CUP #3
CHANGING TREES
FREE-RANGE CATS
OLD MEN IN HATS
INVADING GEESE
DEFACED SIGNS
O, LOITERING!
HOUSE WRAPPED IN VINES

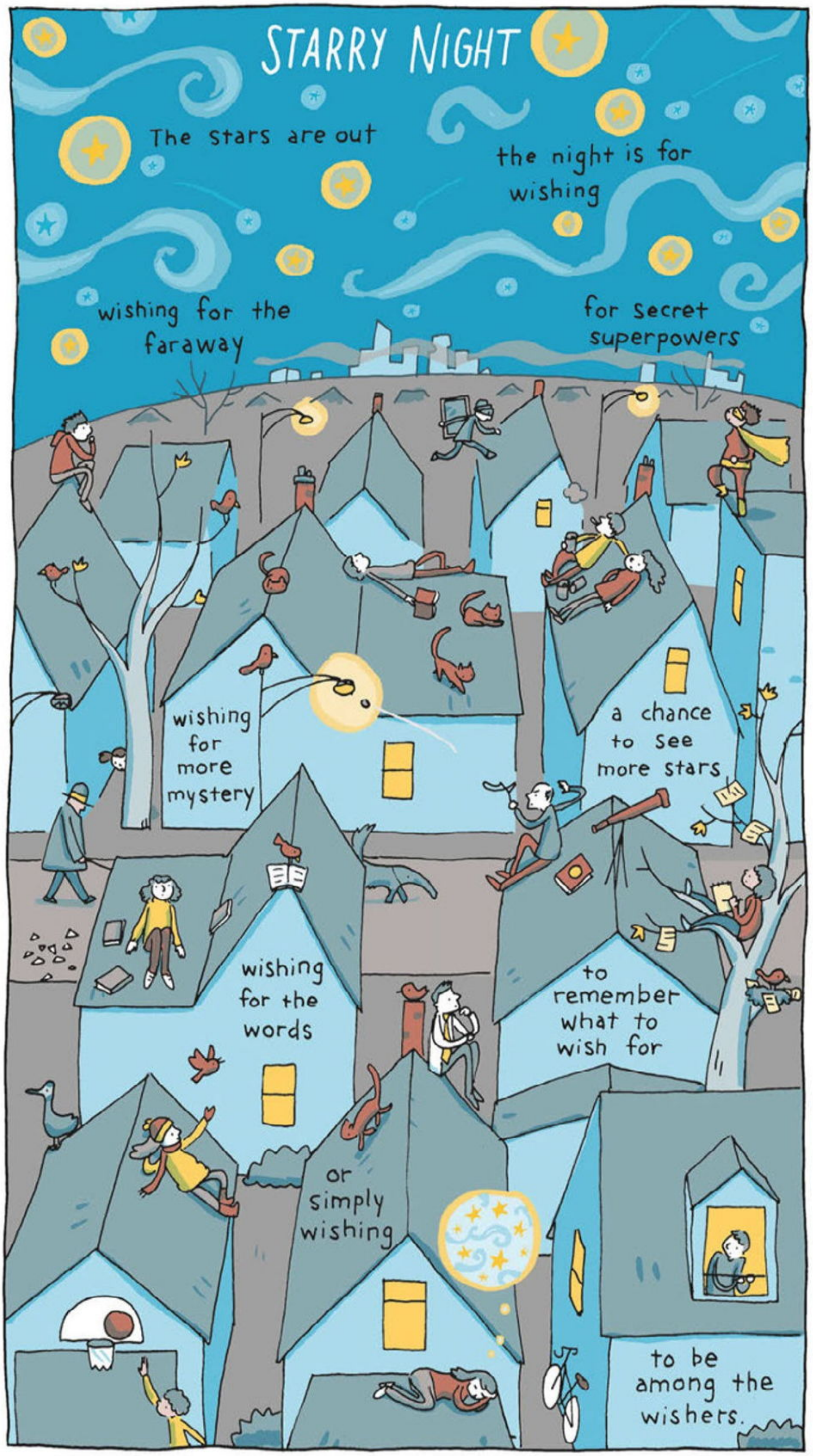

THE WAY DUCKS FLY
LOW-HANGING SKY
SQUIRRELS IN THE MOOD
TAI CHI DUDE
CONVERSING CHAIRS
HELMET HAIR
THE WAY DUCKS EAT
SAME HOUSE, TRIMMED NEAT
THE DOG-WALKING HOUR
IMPROBABLE FLOWERS
SUNSET THROUGH BRANCHES
A FULL BOOK OF SKETCHES

SNAIL'S PACE


I AM LEAVING THE RAT RACE.
I AM JOINING...
THE SNAIL RACE!
I WILL COMMUTE WITH CLOUDS
KEEP UP WITH THE CATERPILLARS
COLLECT THE MOST CABBAGE
SLEEP WITH THE STARS
SLUG ANYONE IN MY WAY
AND WATCH MY LIFE
SPIRAL INTO CONTROL.

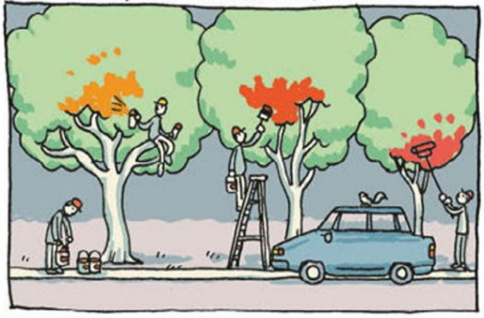
ACCOMPLISHING NOTHING


ANYONE CAN ACCOMPLISH NOTHING.
FIND NOWHERE TO BE.
DON'T FOCUS ON ANYTHING.
MAKE NO PLANS.
LET NOBODY INTERRUPT.
SEARCH FOR NO MEANING.
LET NOTHING CROSS YOUR MIND.
OPEN YOUR EYES.
YOU HAVE ACHIEVED NOTHING.
THIS MOMENT WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

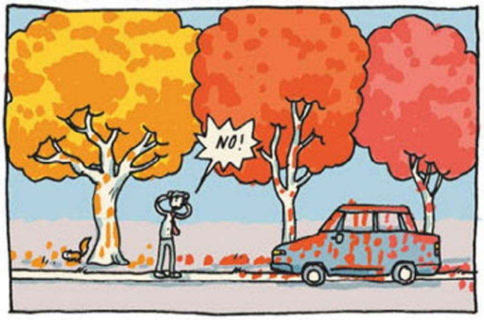

STARRY NIGHT
The stars are out
the night is for wishing
wishing for the faraway
for secret superpowers
wishing for more mystery
a chance to see more stars
wishing for the words
to remember what to wish for
or simply wishing
to be among the wishers.

Theories of Autumn

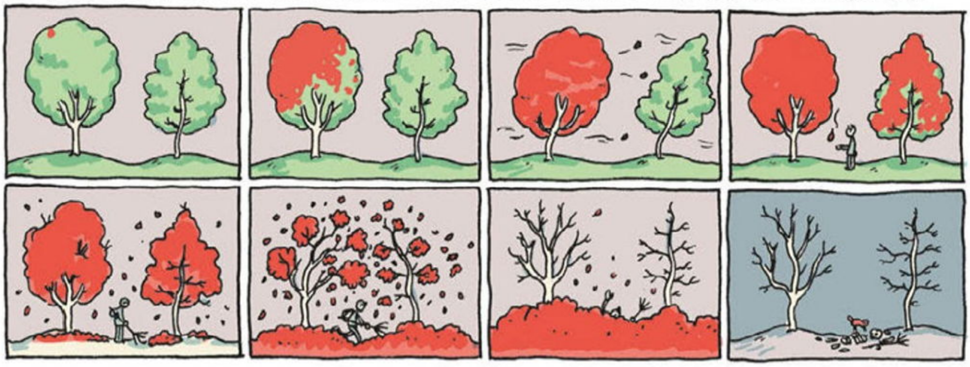
AT NIGHT, THE LEAF PAINTERS WORK.



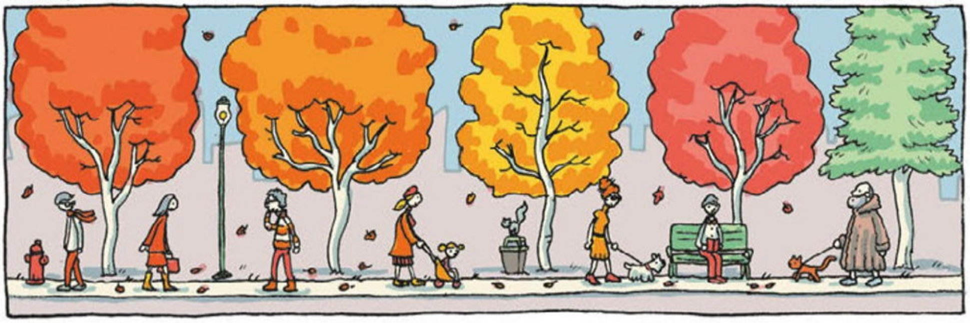
THINGS LOOK DIFFERENT BY MORNING.



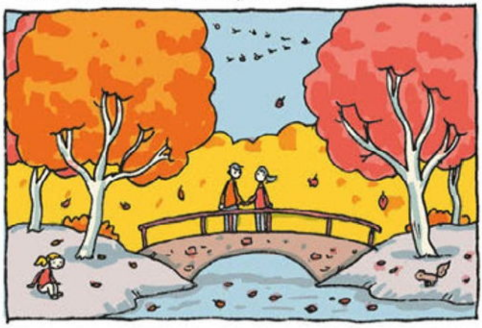
AUTUMN UNFOLDS LIKE A SILENT FILM . . . OF THE APOCALYPTIC HORROR GENRE.



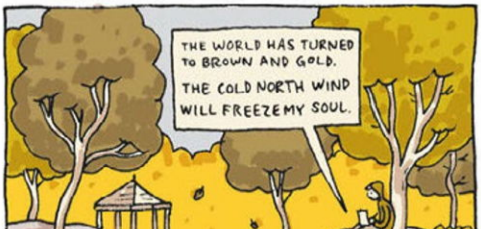
MANY URBAN TREES PUT ON FALL FASHIONS. SOME REFUSE TO CHANGE THEIR STYLE.



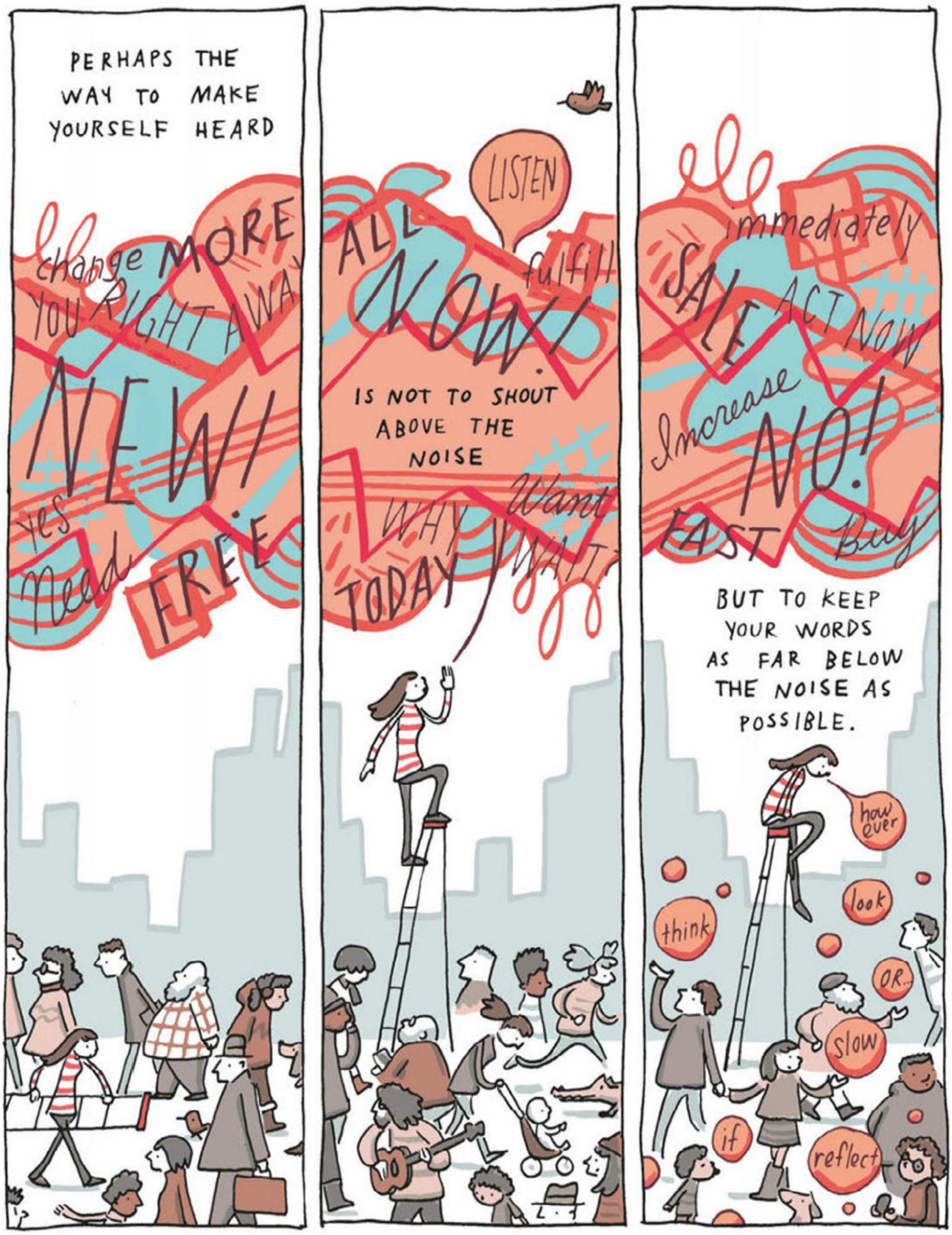
WHO CAN DENY THE BEAUTY OF THE SEASON?



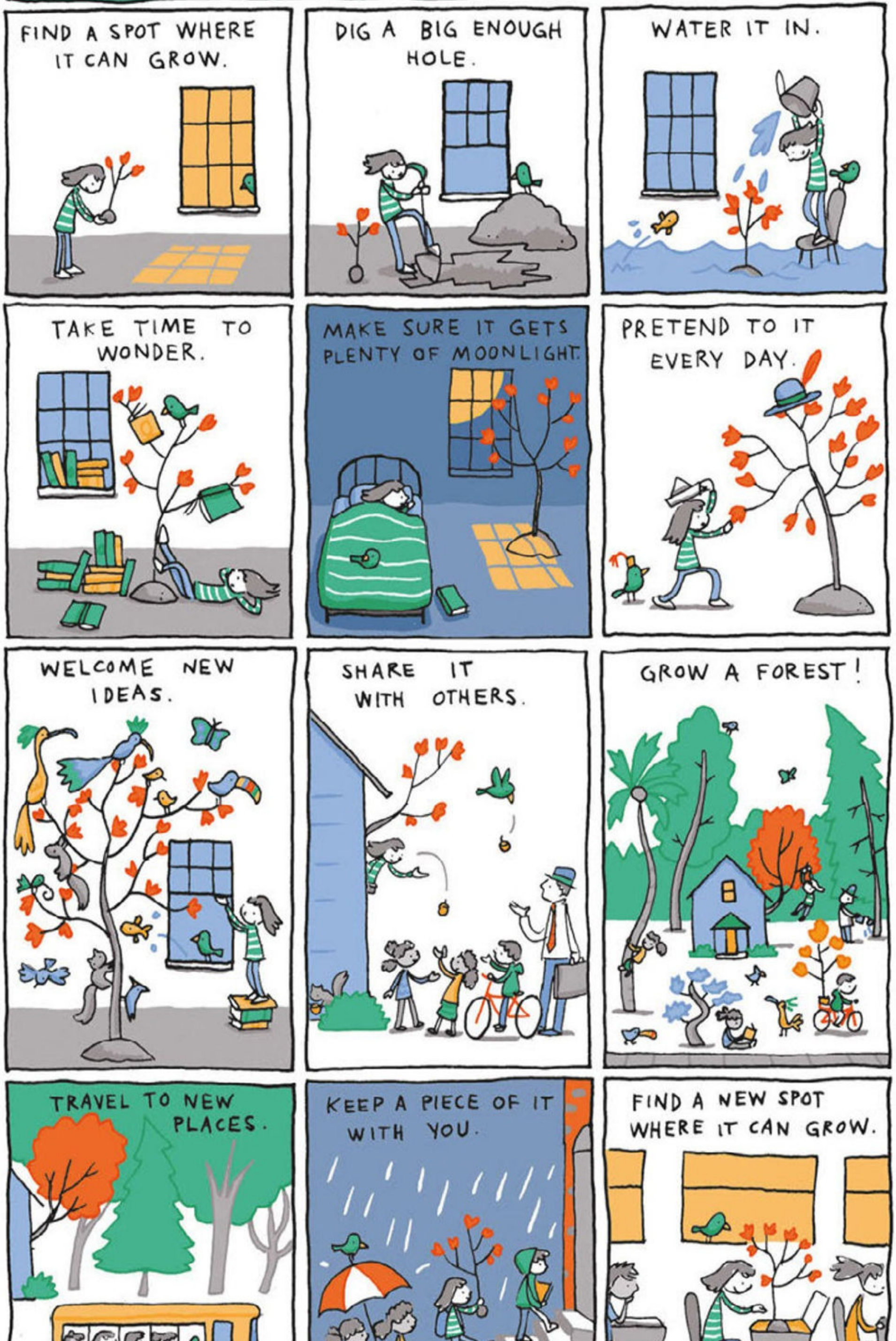
ONLY THE COLOR-BLIND POETS.

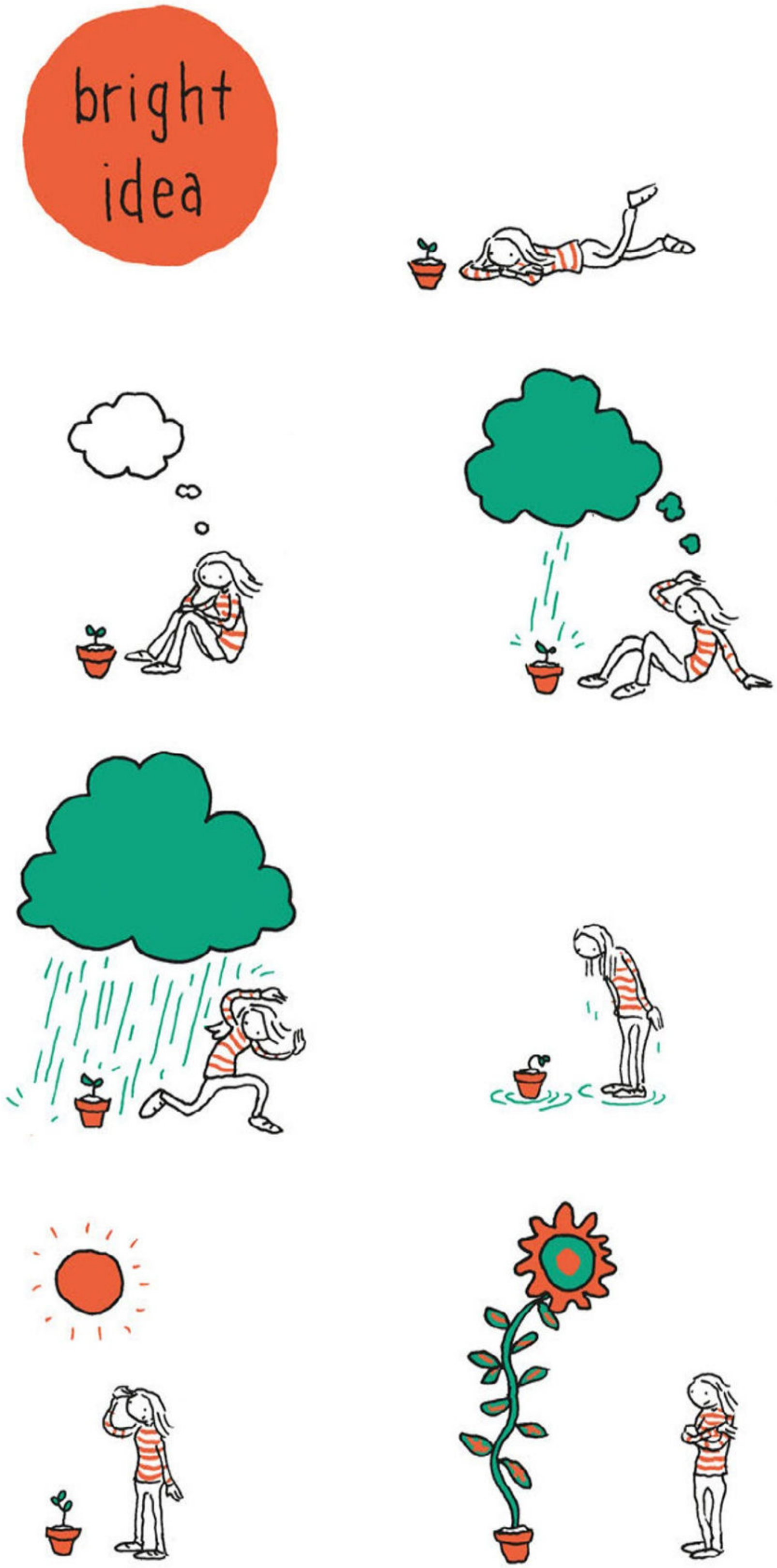

THE WORLD HAS TURNED TO BROWN AND GOLD.
THE COLD NORTH WIND WILL FREEZE MY SOUL.

ABOVE THE NOISE

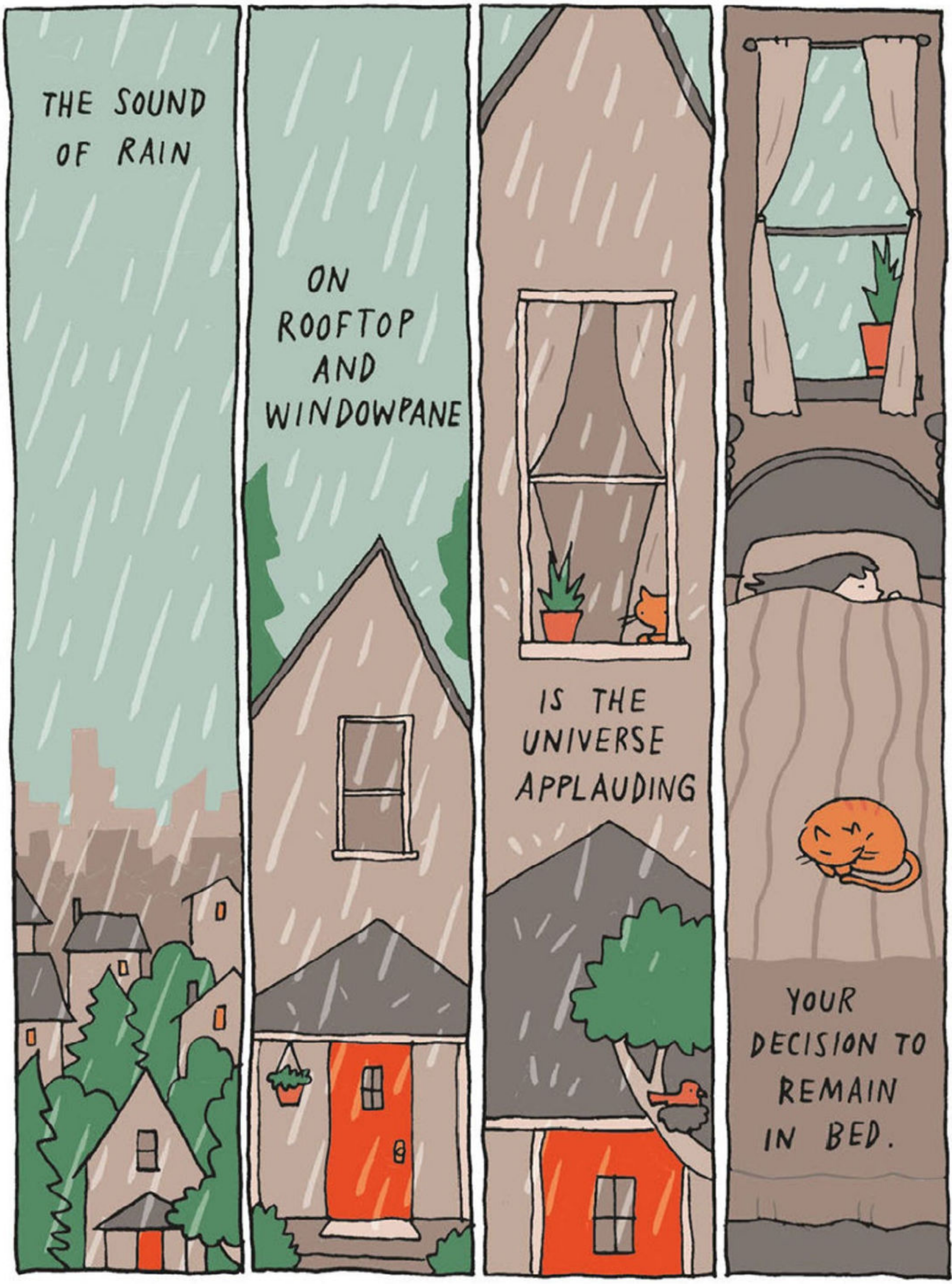

PERHAPS THE WAY TO MAKE YOURSELF HEARD
change
MORE
YOU
RIGHT AWAY
NEW!
yes
need
FREE
ALL
LISTEN
NOW!
fulfill
IS NOT TO SHOUT ABOVE THE NOISE
WHY
Want
TODAY
WAIT
immediately
SALE
ACT NOW
Increase
NO!
FAST
Buy
BUT TO KEEP YOUR WORDS AS FAR BELOW THE NOISE AS POSSIBLE.
how ever
look
think
OR...
slow
if
reflect

HOW TO GROW IMAGINATION


FIND A SPOT WHERE IT CAN GROW.
DIG A BIG ENOUGH HOLE.
WATER IT IN.
TAKE TIME TO WONDER.
MAKE SURE IT GETS PLENTY OF MOONLIGHT.
PRETEND TO IT EVERY DAY.
WELCOME NEW IDEAS.
SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.
GROW A FOREST!
TRAVEL TO NEW PLACES.
143
KEEP A PIECE OF IT WITH YOU.
FIND A NEW SPOT WHERE IT CAN GROW.

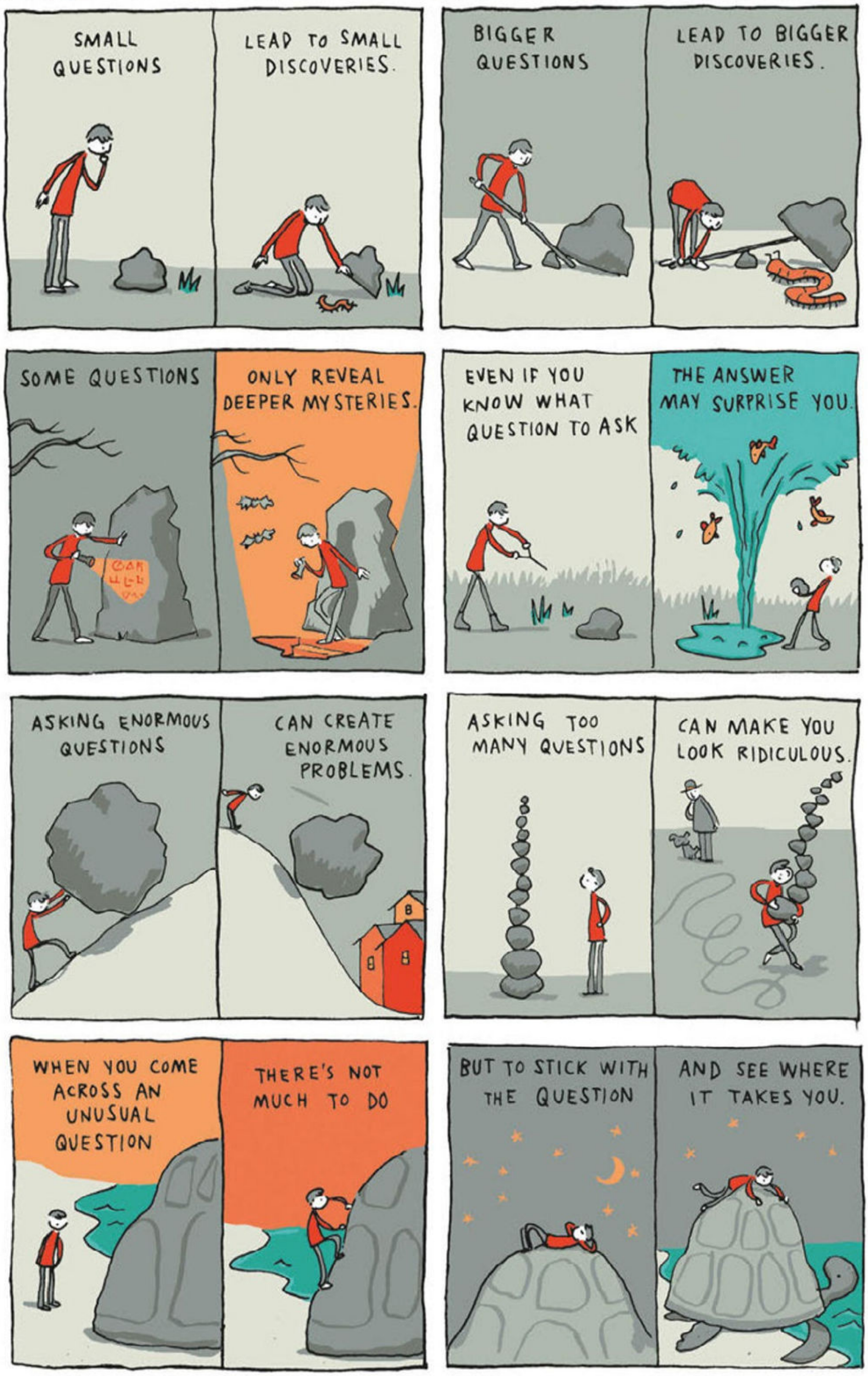

bright
idea

GOOD MORNING

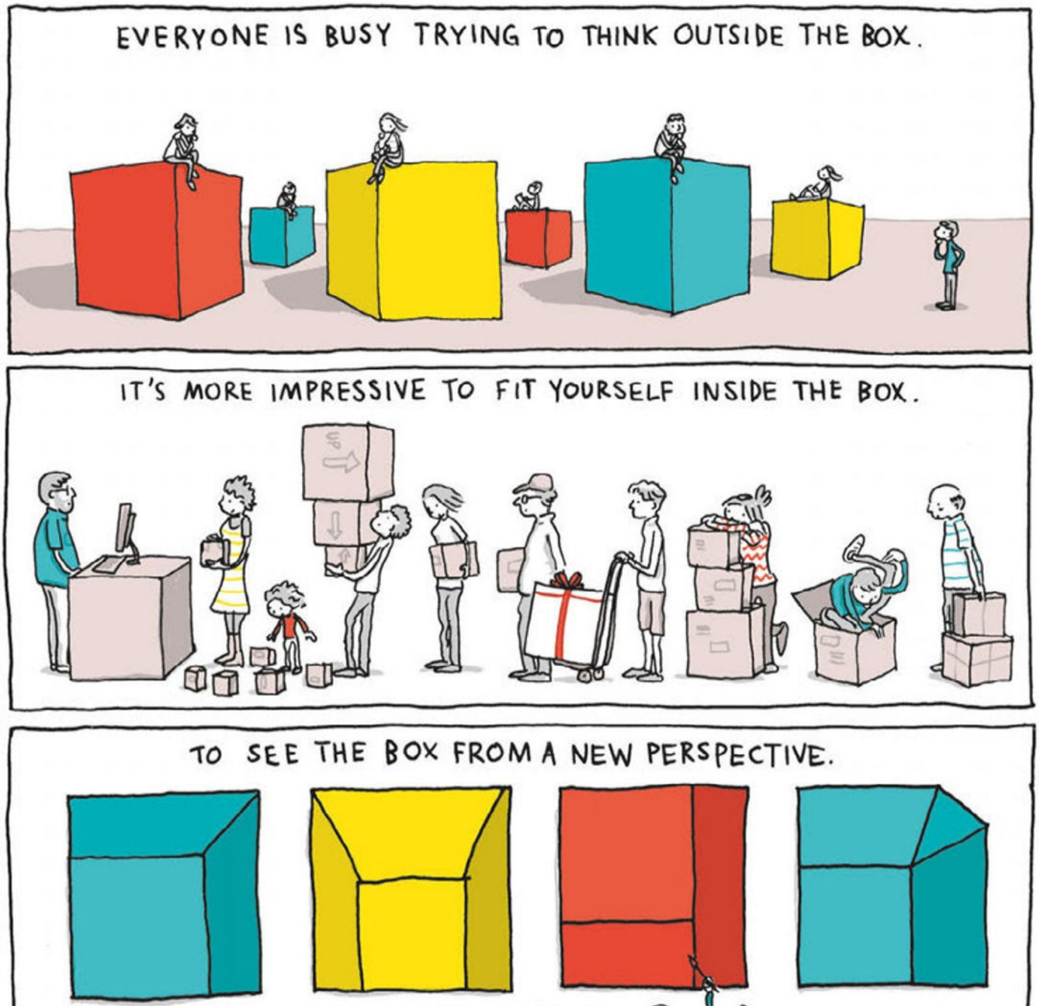

THE SOUND OF RAIN
ON ROOFTOP AND WINDOWPANE
IS THE UNIVERSE APPLAUDING
YOUR DECISION TO REMAIN IN BED.

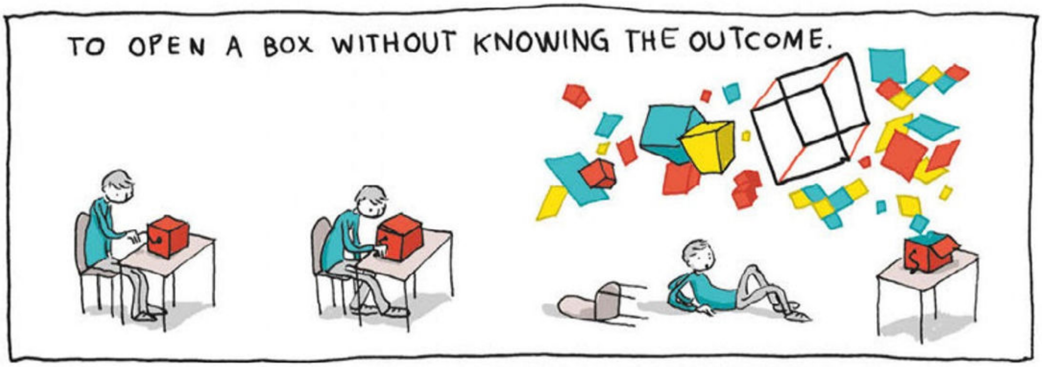
EXPLORATION

ASKING QUESTIONS

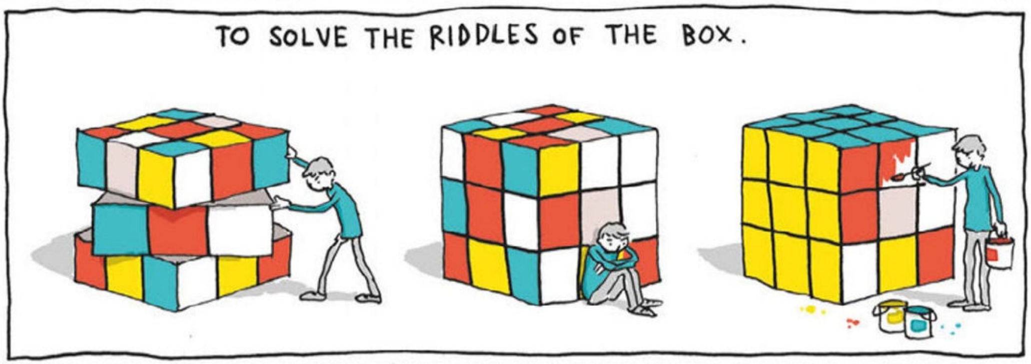

SMALL QUESTIONS
LEAD TO SMALL DISCOVERIES.
BIGGER QUESTIONS
LEAD TO BIGGER DISCOVERIES.
SOME QUESTIONS
ONLY REVEAL DEEPER MYSTERIES.
EVEN IF YOU KNOW WHAT QUESTION TO ASK
THE ANSWER MAY SURPRISE YOU.
ASKING ENORMOUS QUESTIONS
CAN CREATE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS.
ASKING TOO MANY QUESTIONS
CAN MAKE YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS.
WHEN YOU COME ACROSS AN UNUSUAL QUESTION
THERE'S NOT MUCH TO DO
BUT TO STICK WITH THE QUESTION
AND SEE WHERE IT TAKES YOU.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

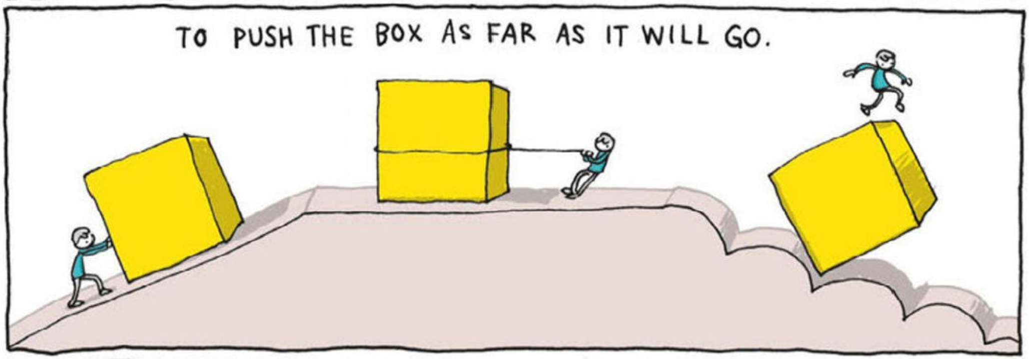

EVERYONE IS BUSY TRYING TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.
IT'S MORE IMPRESSIVE TO FIT YOURSELF INSIDE THE BOX.
UP
TO SEE THE BOX FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE.
TO DECONSTRUCT THE BOX AND FIND A NEW USE FOR IT.



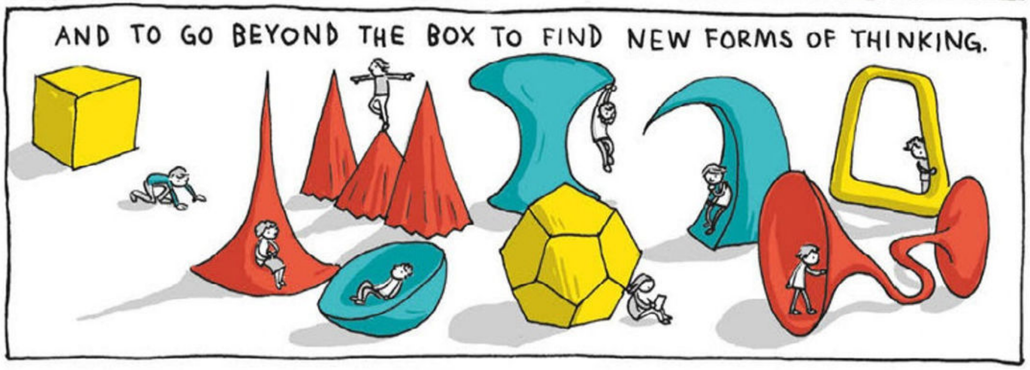
TO OPEN A BOX WITHOUT KNOWING THE OUTCOME.



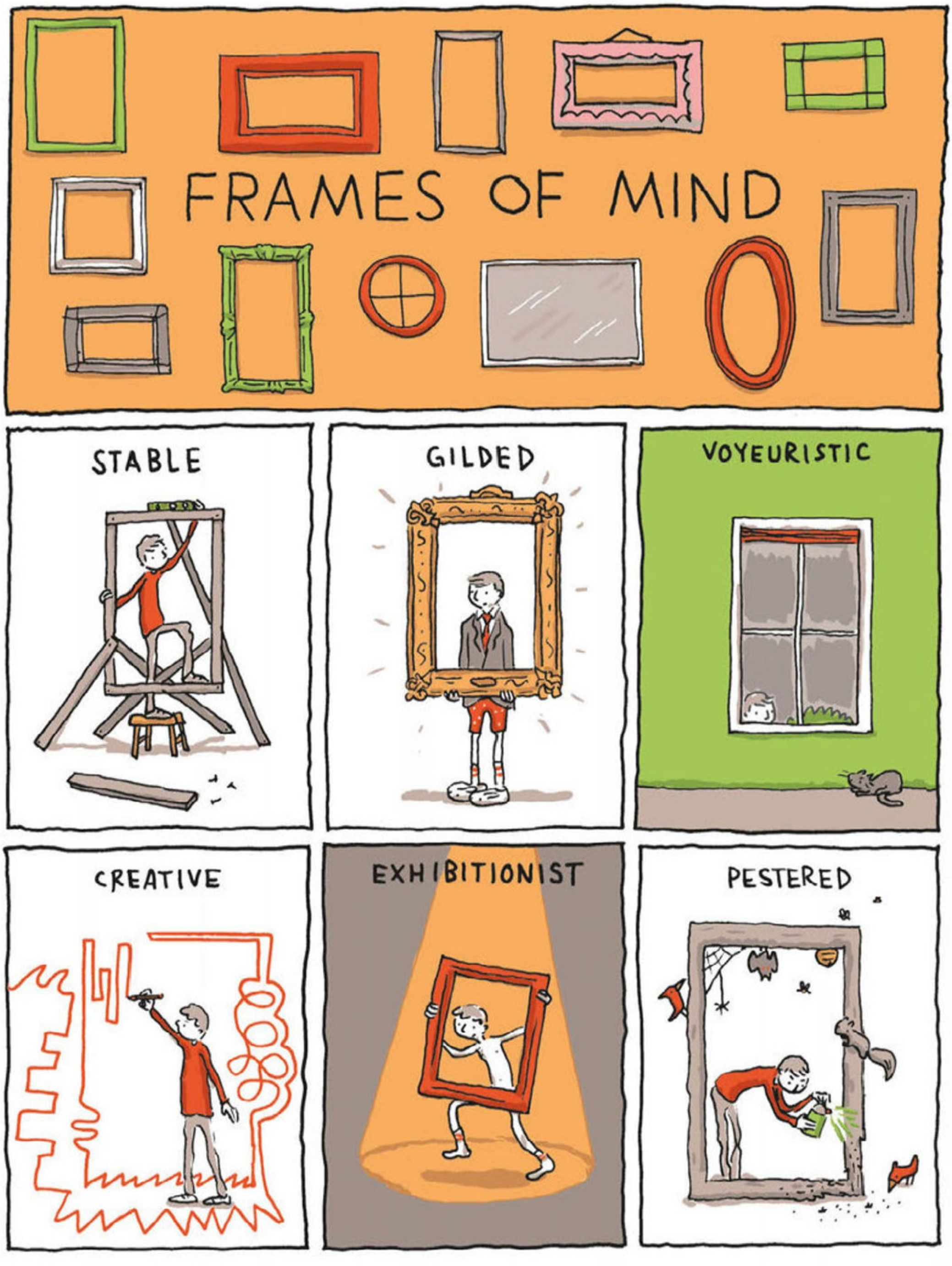
TO SOLVE THE RIDDLES OF THE BOX.

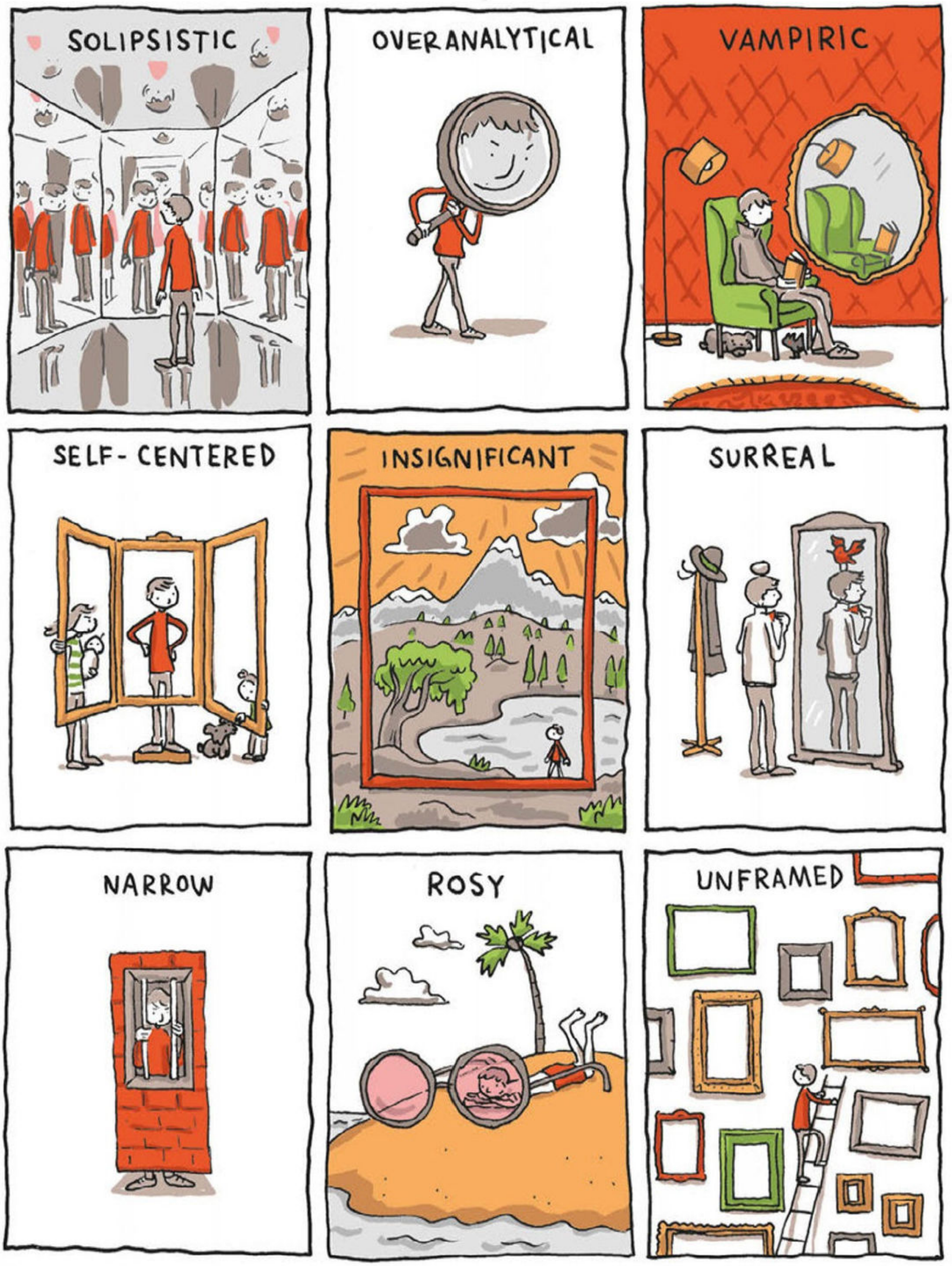


TO PUSH THE BOX AS FAR AS IT WILL GO.

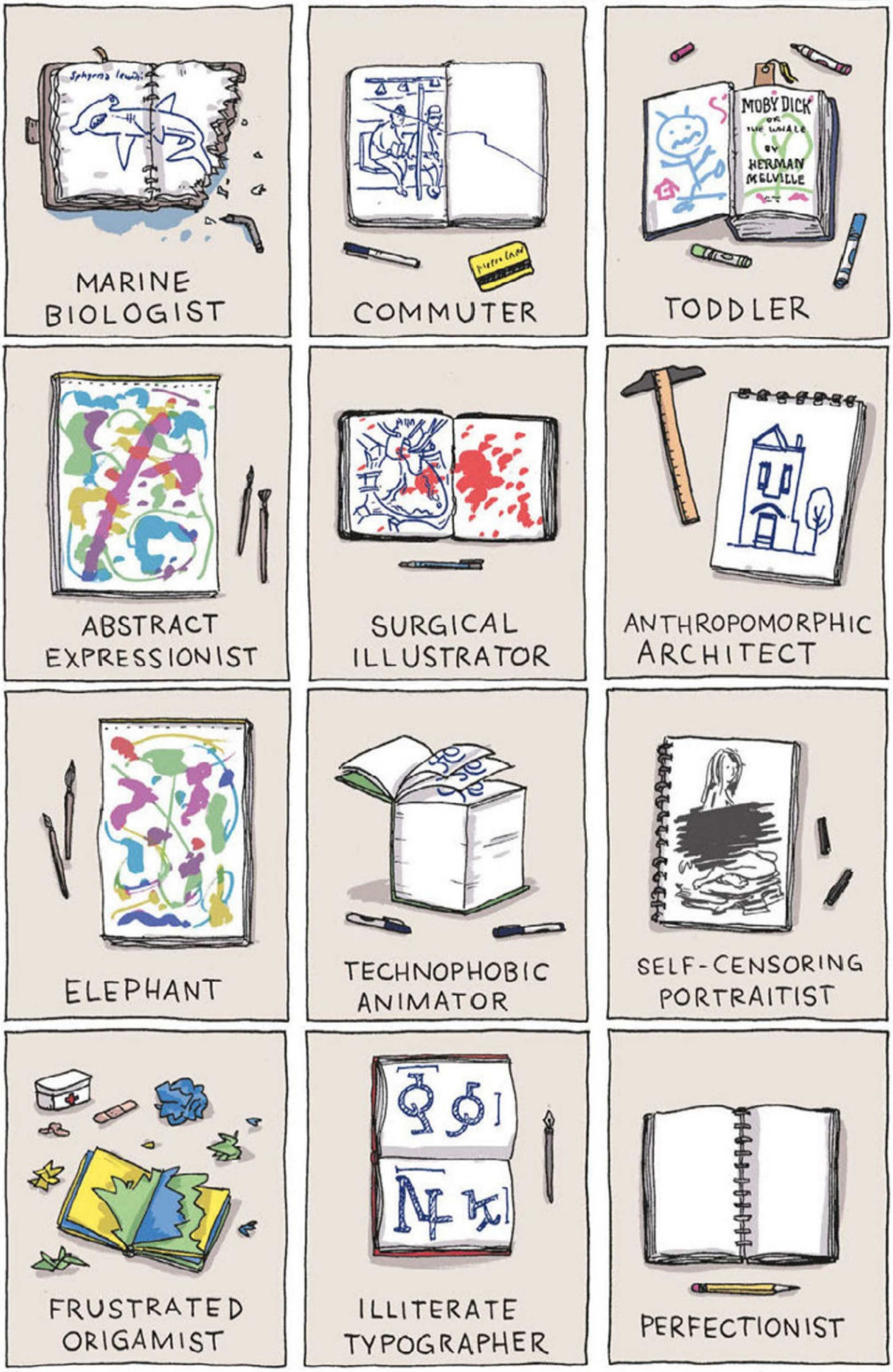


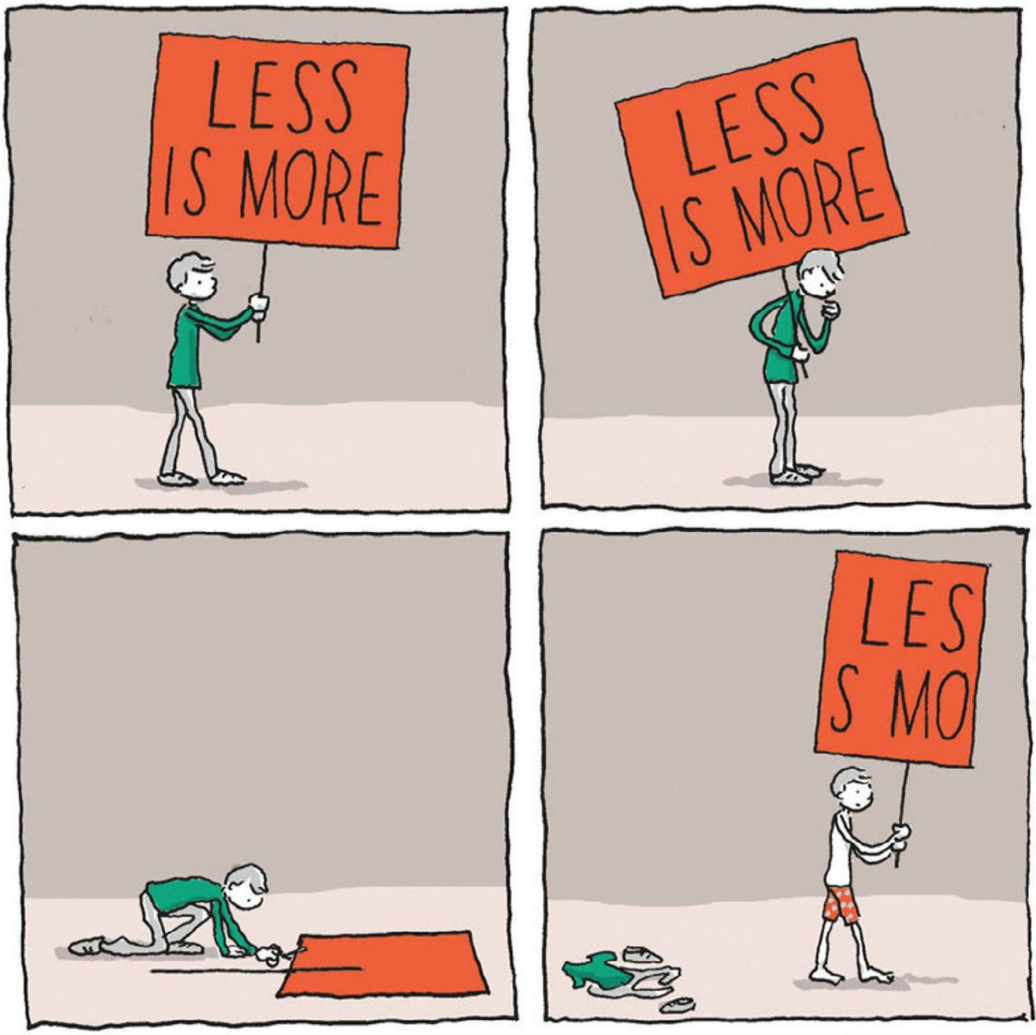
AND TO GO BEYOND THE BOX TO FIND NEW FORMS OF THINKING.

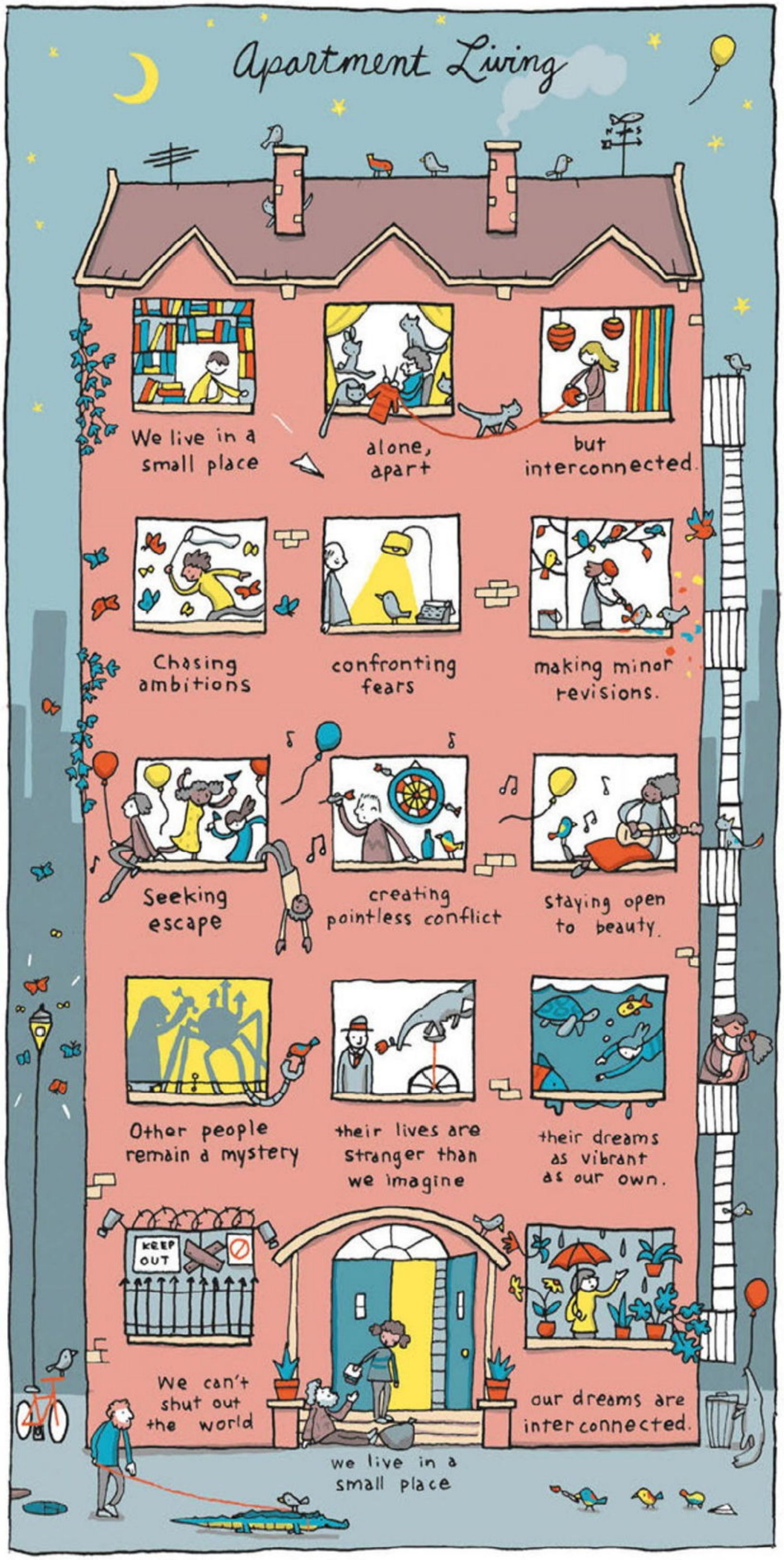

FRAMES OF MIND
STABLE
GILDED
VOYEURISTIC
CREATIVE
EXHIBITIONIST
PESTERED

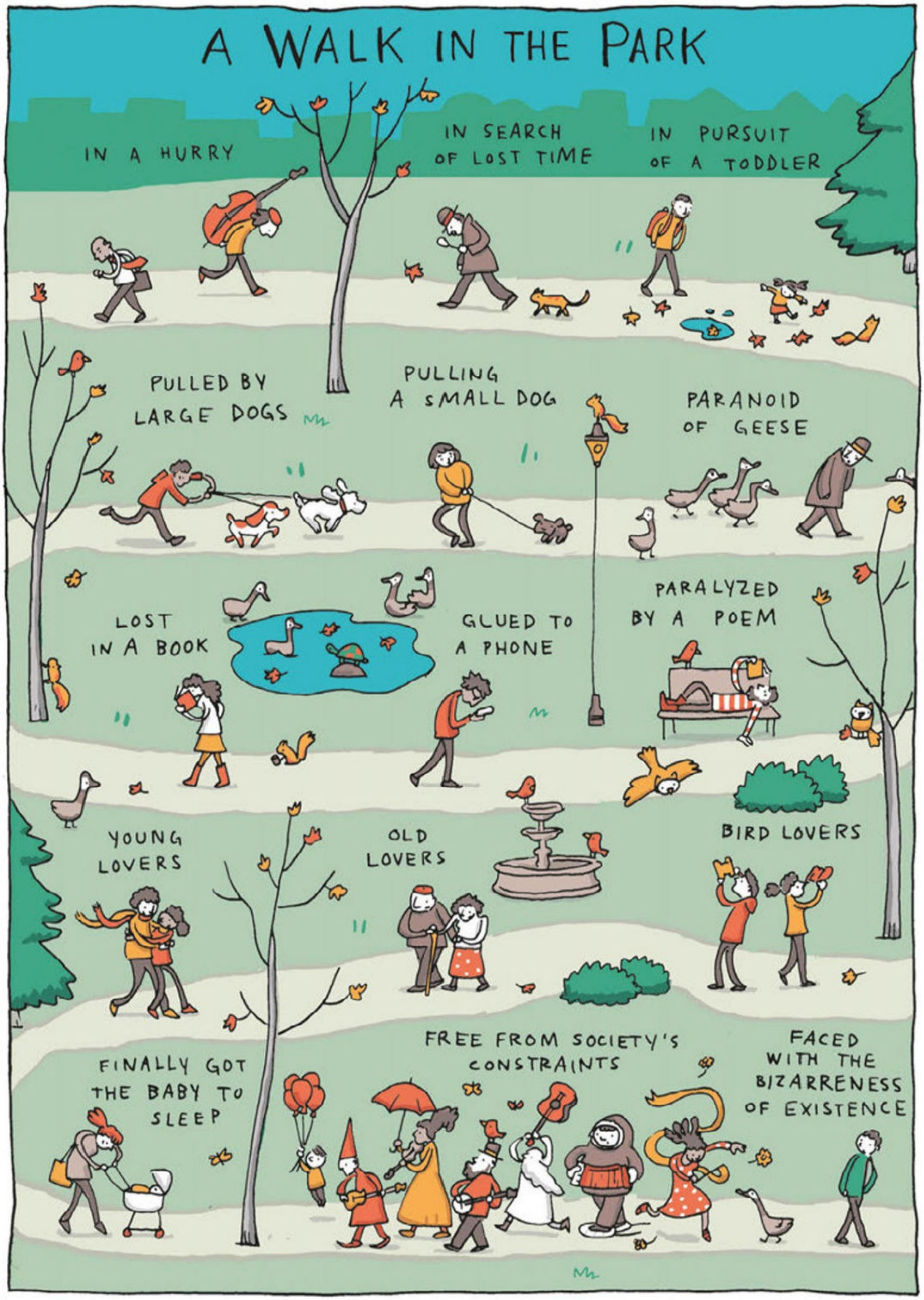

SOLIPSISTIC
OVERANALYTICAL
VAMPIRIC
SELF-CENTERED
INSIGNIFICANT
SURREAL
NARROW
ROSY
UNFRAMED

SKETCHBOOKS OF THE PROS

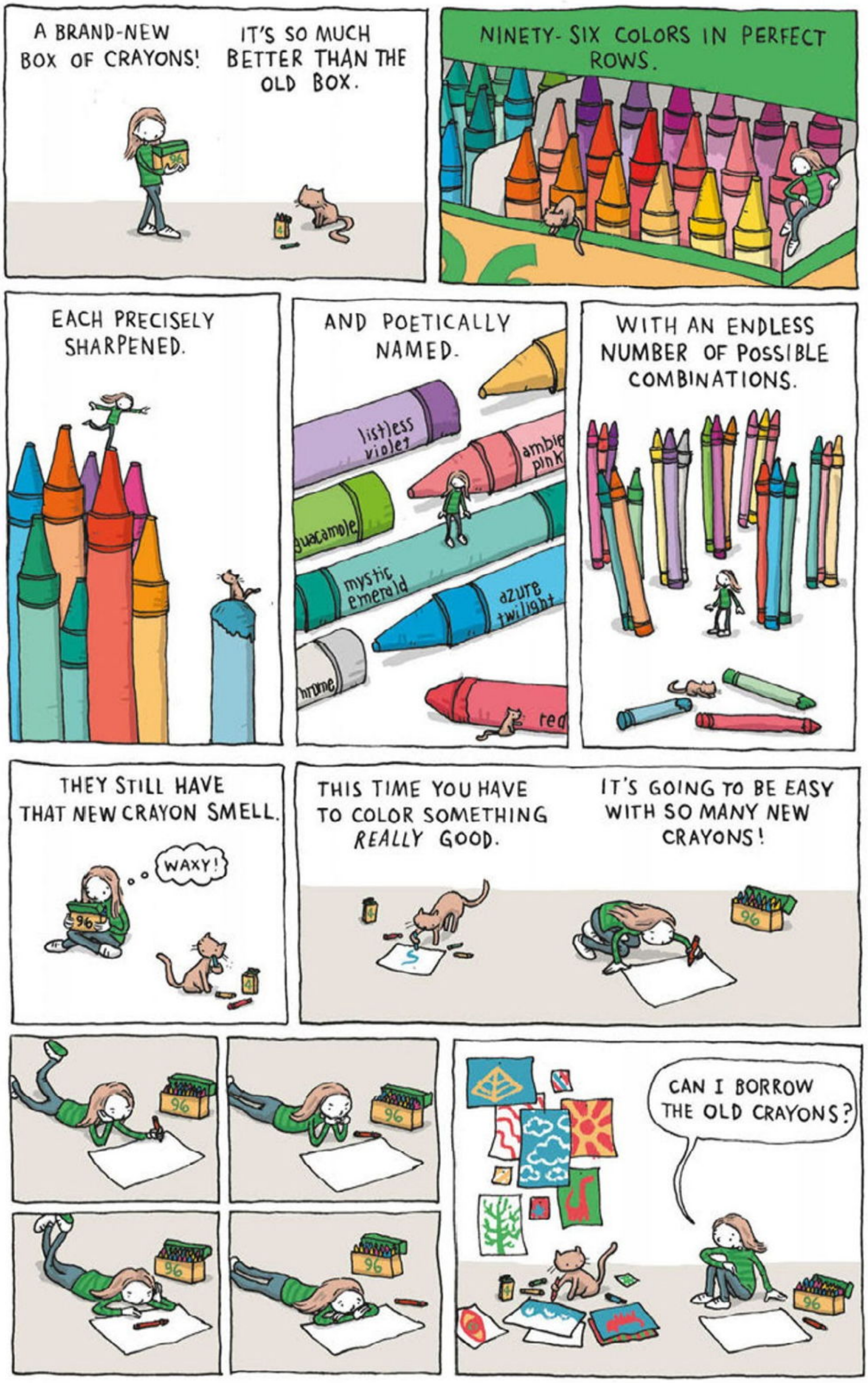

Sphyrna lewini
MARINE BIOLOGIST
metro card
COMMUTER
MOBY DICK OR THE WHALE BY HERMAN MELVILLE
TODDLER
ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONIST
SURGICAL ILLUSTRATOR
ANTHROPOMORPHIC ARCHITECT
ELEPHANT
TECHNOPHOBIC ANIMATOR
SELF-CENSORING PORTRAITIST
FRUSTRATED ORIGAMIST
ILLITERATE TYPOGRAPHER
PERFECTIONIST


LESS IS MORE
LESS IS MORE
LES S MO


Apartment Living
We live in a small place
alone, apart
but interconnected.
Chasing ambitions
confronting fears
making minor revisions.
Seeking escape
creating pointless conflict
staying open to beauty.
Other people remain a mystery
their lives are stranger than we imagine
their dreams as vibrant as our own.
KEEP OUT
We can't shut out the world
our dreams are interconnected.
we live in a small place

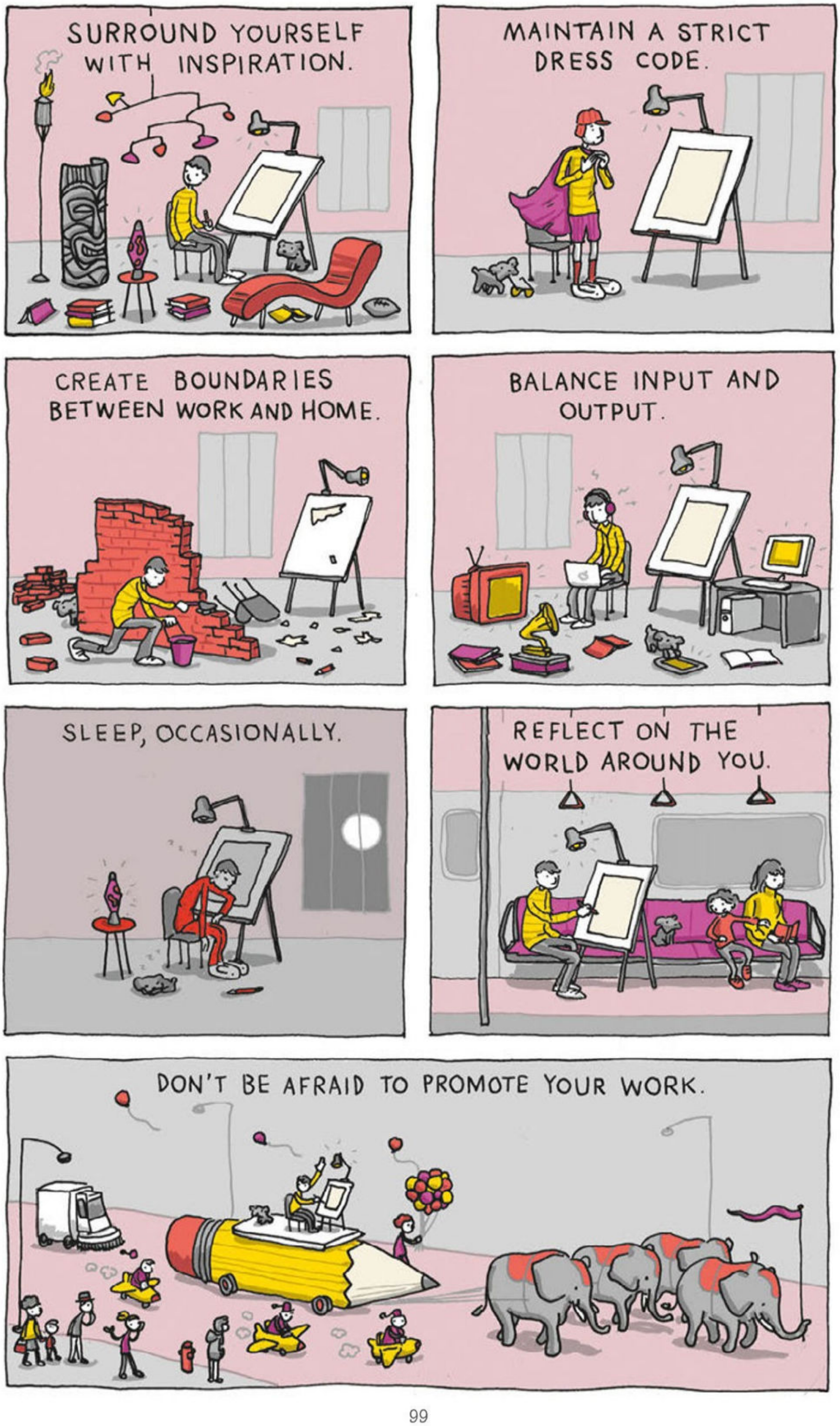

A WALK IN THE PARK
IN A HURRY
IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME
IN PURSUIT OF A TODDLER
PULLED BY LARGE DOGS
PULLING A SMALL DOG
PARANOID OF GEESE
LOST IN A BOOK
GLUED TO A PHONE
PARALYZED BY A POEM
YOUNG LOVERS
OLD LOVERS
BIRD LOVERS
FINALLY GOT THE BABY TO SLEEP
FREE FROM SOCIETY'S CONSTRAINTS
FACED WITH THE BIZARRENESS OF EXISTENCE

new crayons

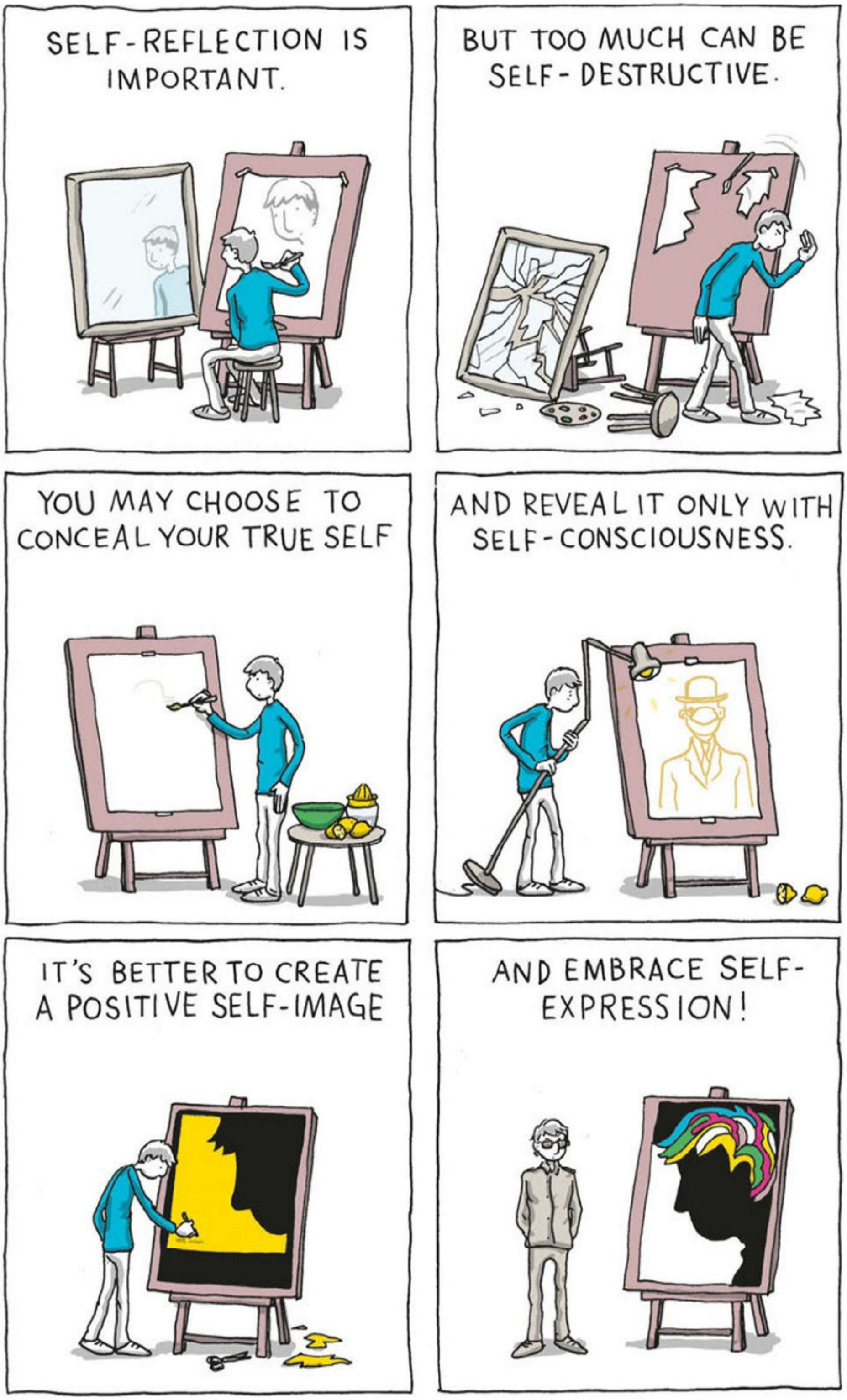


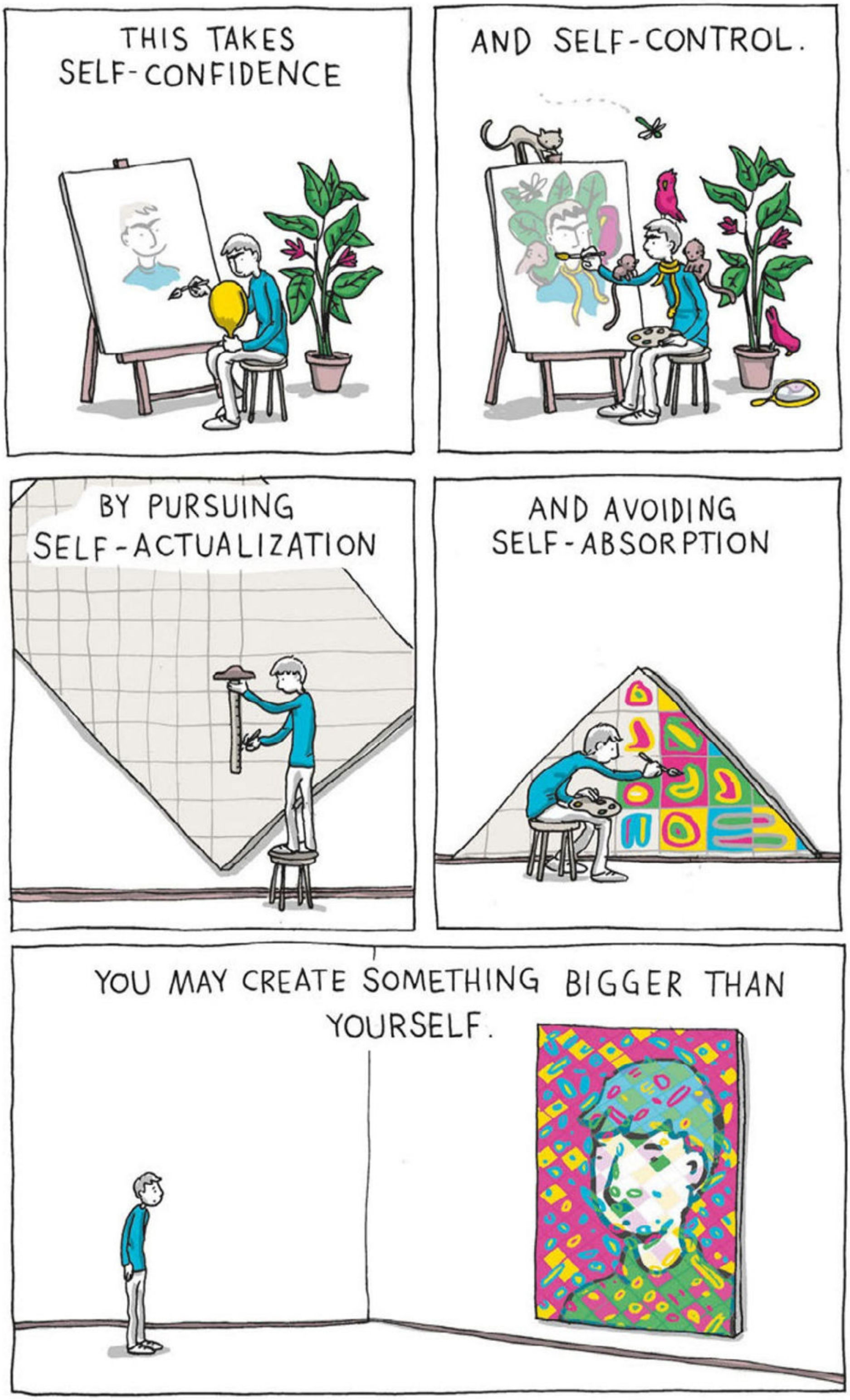
A BRAND-NEW BOX OF CRAYONS!
IT'S SO MUCH BETTER THAN THE OLD BOX.
96
4
NINETY-SIX COLORS IN PERFECT ROWS.
EACH PRECISELY SHARPENED.
AND POETICALLY NAMED.
listless violet
ambie pink
guacamole
mystic emerald
azure twilight
hrome
red
WITH AN ENDLESS NUMBER OF POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS.
THEY STILL HAVE THAT NEW CRAYON SMELL.
WAXY!
96
4
THIS TIME YOU HAVE TO COLOR SOMETHING *REALLY* GOOD.
IT'S GOING TO BE EASY WITH SO MANY NEW CRAYONS!
4
96
96
96
96
96
CAN I BORROW THE OLD CRAYONS?
4
96

RULES FOR FREELANCERS

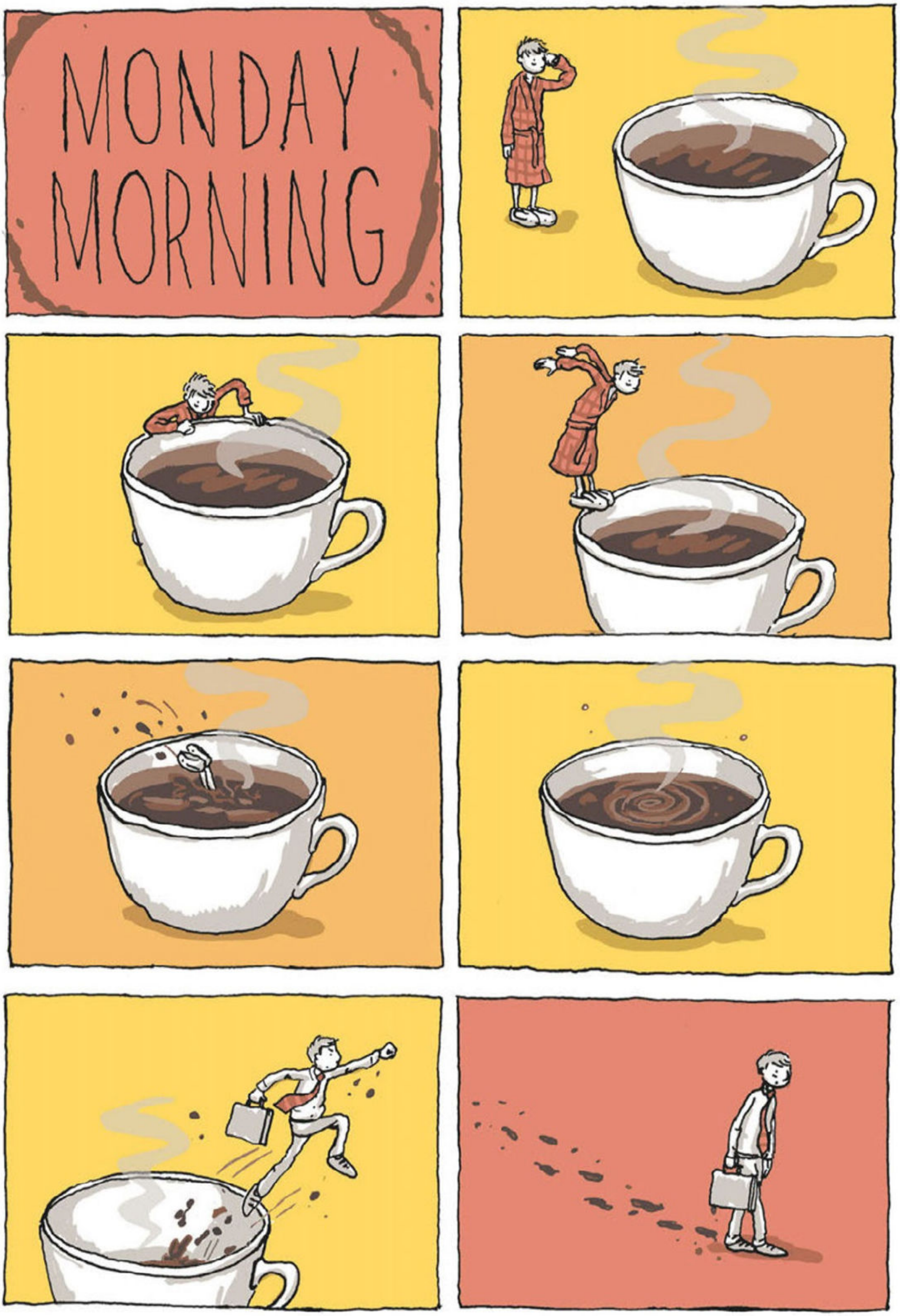

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH INSPIRATION.
MAINTAIN A STRICT DRESS CODE.
CREATE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN WORK AND HOME.
BALANCE INPUT AND OUTPUT.
SLEEP, OCCASIONALLY.
REFLECT ON THE WORLD AROUND YOU.
DON'T BE AFRAID TO PROMOTE YOUR WORK.

SELF-PORTRAIT

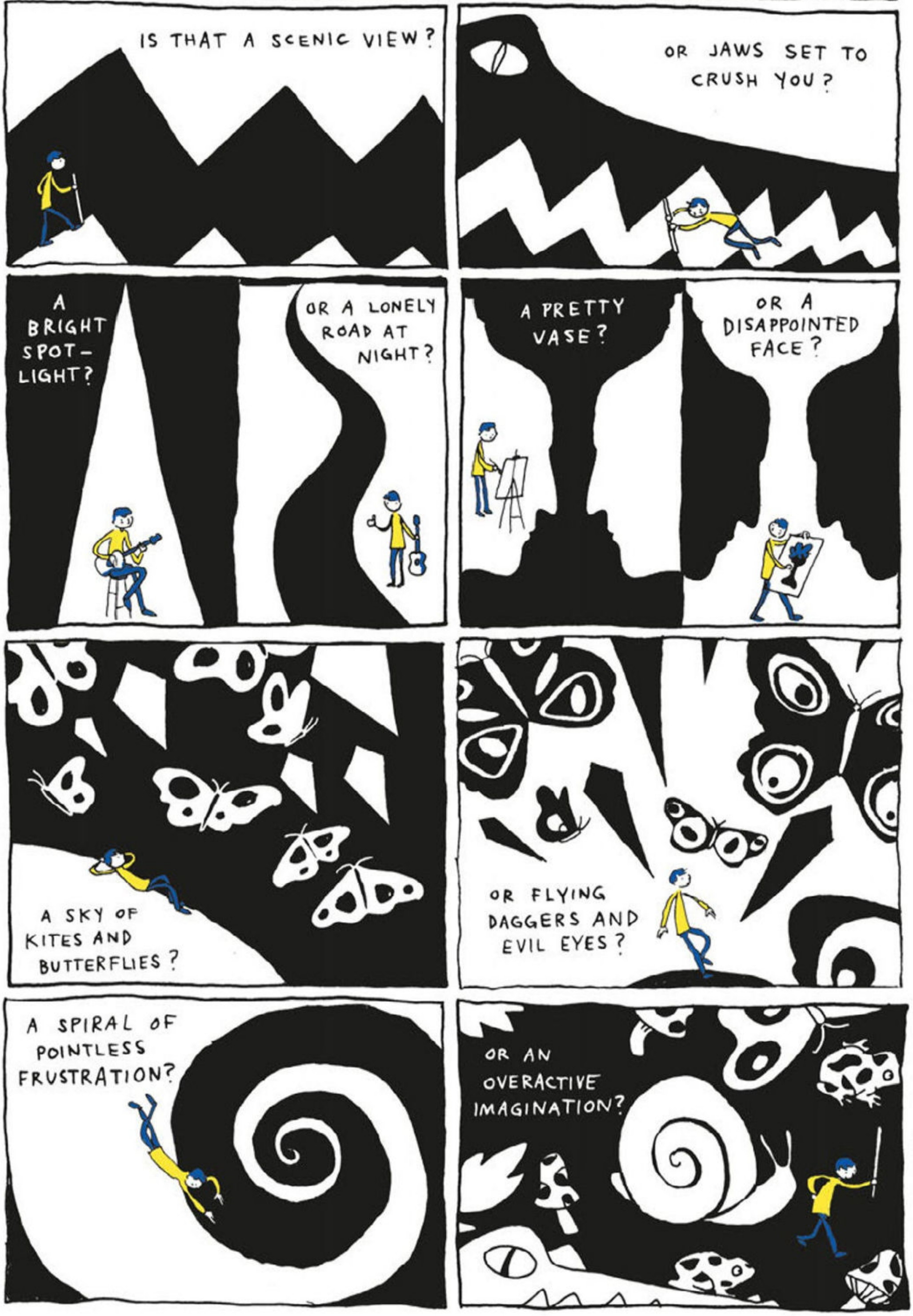

SELF-REFLECTION IS IMPORTANT.
BUT TOO MUCH CAN BE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE.
YOU MAY CHOOSE TO CONCEAL YOUR TRUE SELF
AND REVEAL IT ONLY WITH SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.
IT'S BETTER TO CREATE A POSITIVE SELF-IMAGE
AND EMBRACE SELF-EXPRESSION!

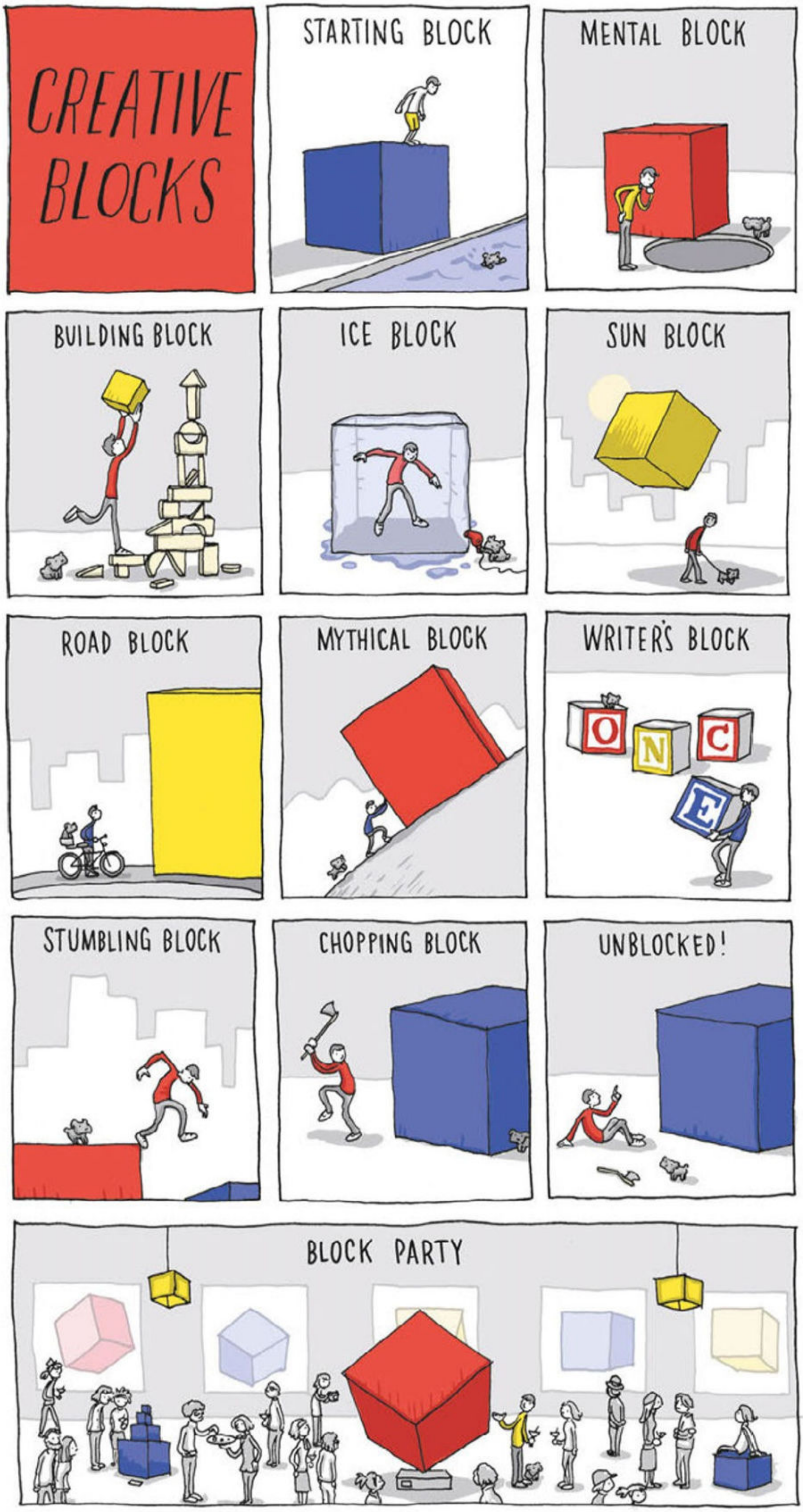

THIS TAKES SELF-CONFIDENCE
AND SELF-CONTROL.
BY PURSUING SELF-ACTUALIZATION
AND AVOIDING SELF-ABSORPTION
YOU MAY CREATE SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF.

DAILY FRUSTRATION

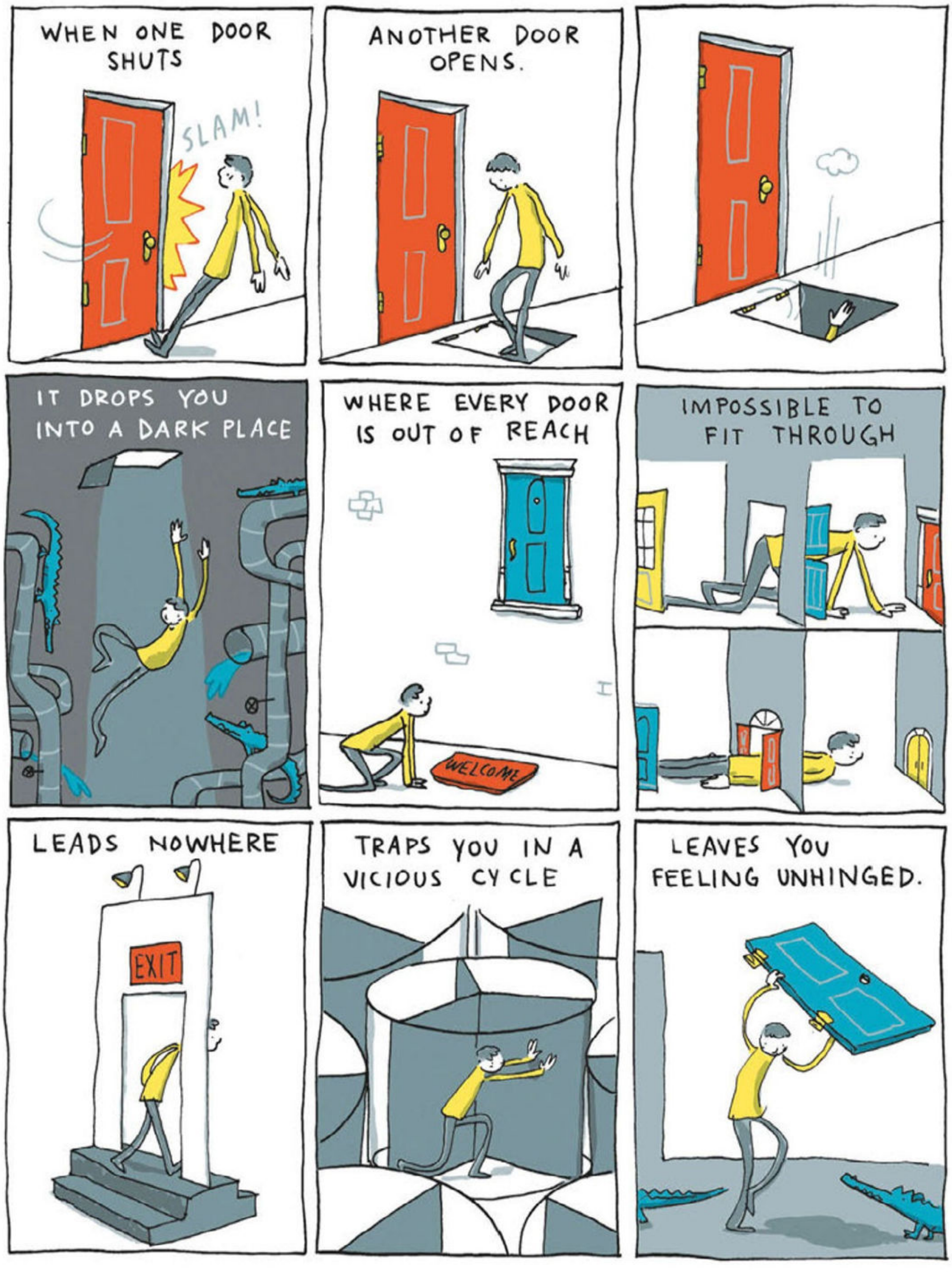

MONDAY MORNING

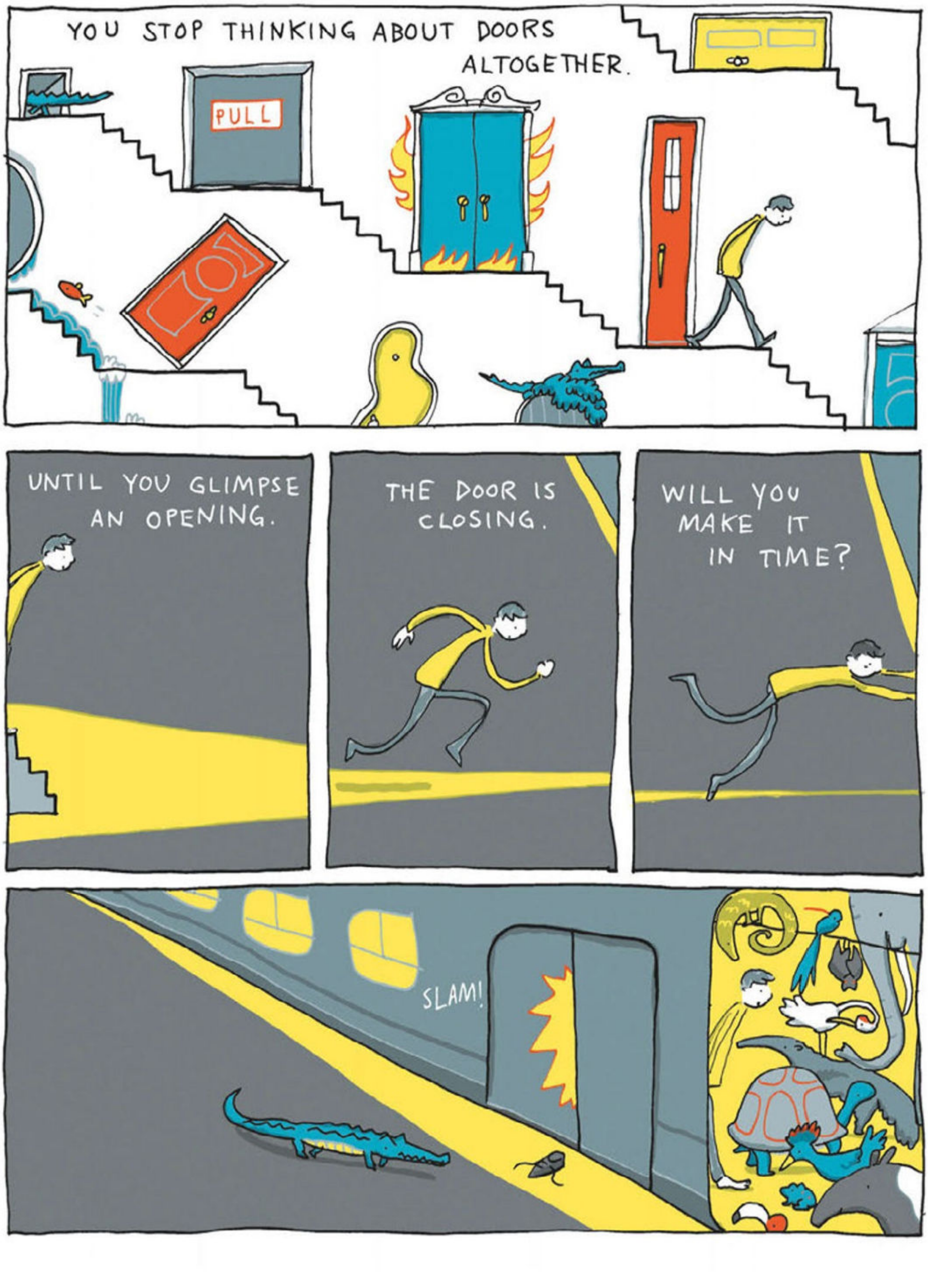
NEGATIVE THINKING


IS THAT A SCENIC VIEW?
OR JAWS SET TO CRUSH YOU?
A BRIGHT SPOTLIGHT?
OR A LONELY ROAD AT NIGHT?
A PRETTY VASE?
OR A DISAPPOINTED FACE?
A SKY OF KITES AND BUTTERFLIES?
OR FLYING DAGGERS AND EVIL EYES?
A SPIRAL OF POINTLESS FRUSTRATION?
OR AN OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION?

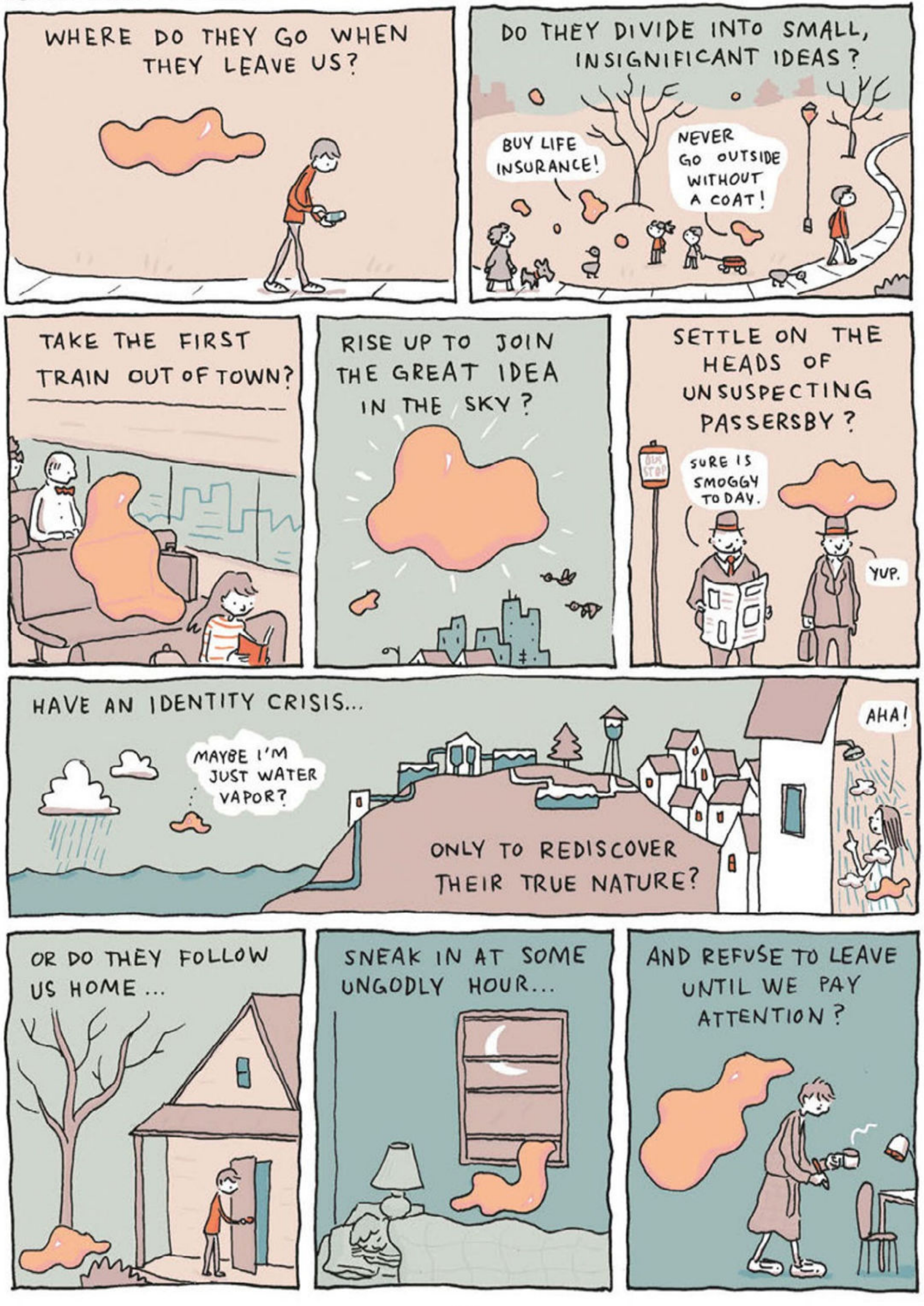

CREATIVE BLOCKS
STARTING BLOCK
MENTAL BLOCK
BUILDING BLOCK
ICE BLOCK
SUN BLOCK
ROAD BLOCK
MYTHICAL BLOCK
WRITER'S BLOCK
O N C E
STUMBLING BLOCK
CHOPPING BLOCK
UNBLOCKED!
BLOCK PARTY

REJECTION

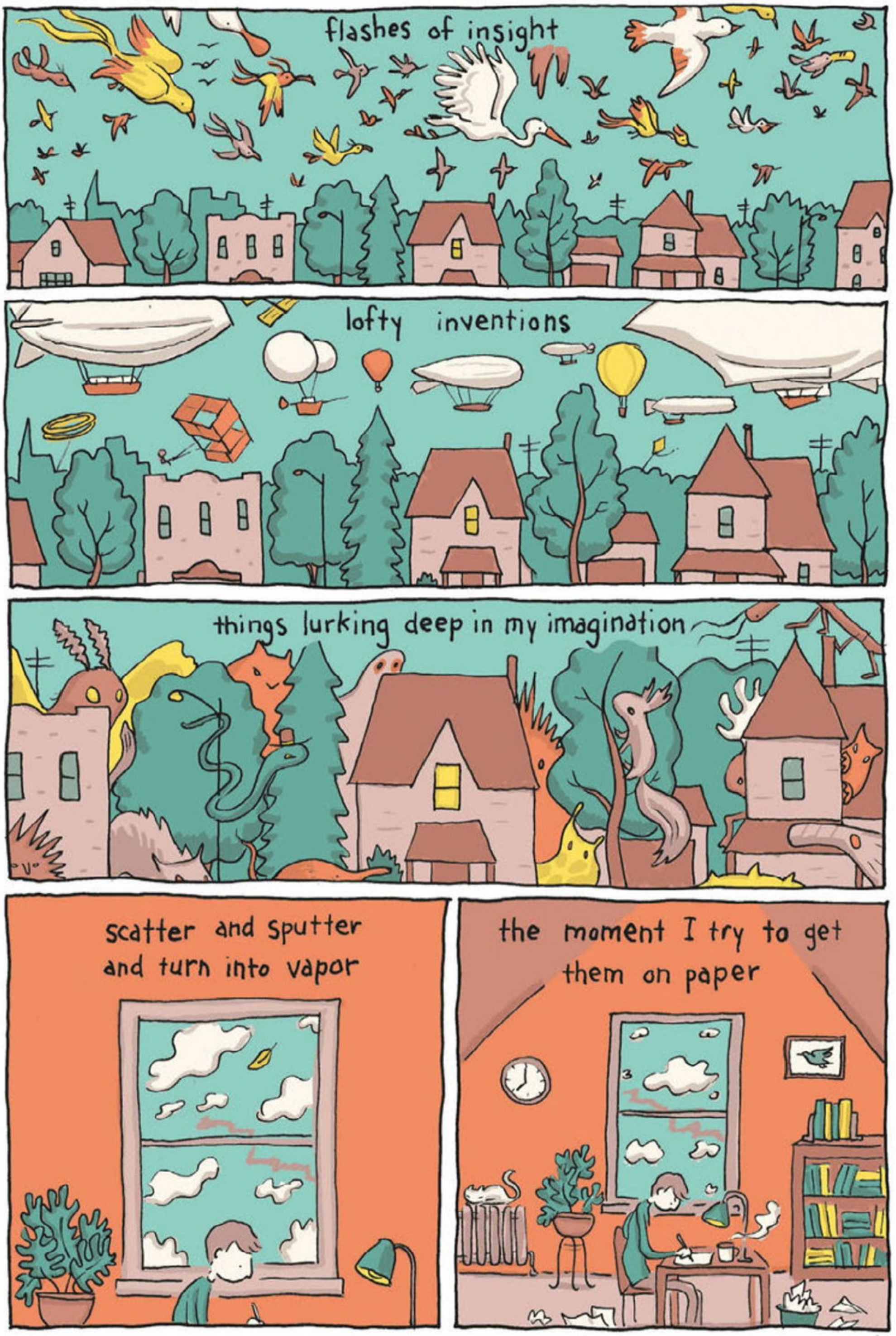

WHEN ONE DOOR SHUTS
SLAM!
ANOTHER DOOR OPENS.
IT DROPS YOU INTO A DARK PLACE
WHERE EVERY DOOR IS OUT OF REACH
WELCOME
IMPOSSIBLE TO FIT THROUGH
LEADS NOWHERE
EXIT
TRAPS YOU IN A VICIOUS CYCLE
LEAVES YOU FEELING UNHINGED.


YOU STOP THINKING ABOUT DOORS ALTOGETHER.
PULL
UNTIL YOU GLIMPSE AN OPENING.
THE DOOR IS CLOSING.
WILL YOU MAKE IT IN TIME?
SLAM!

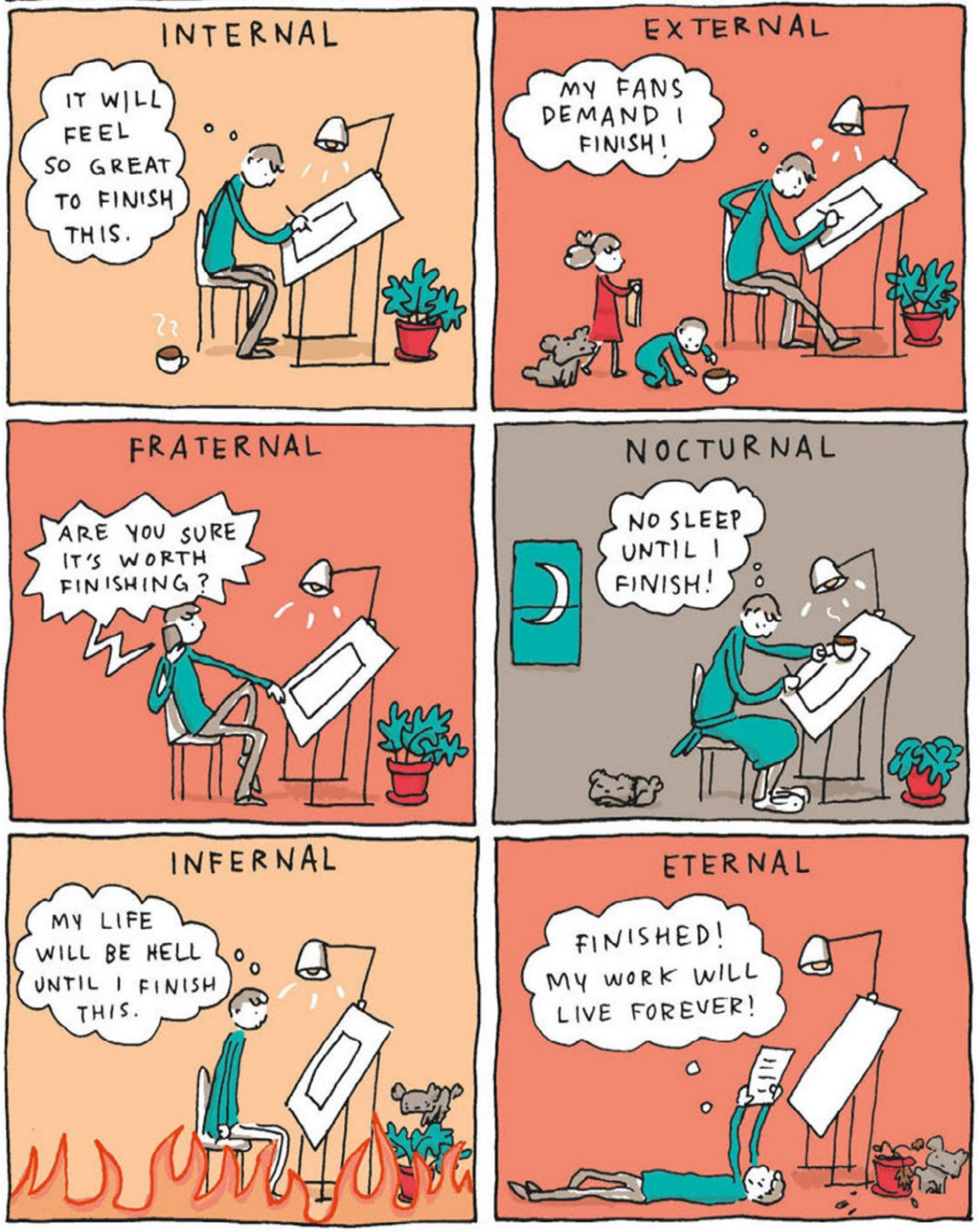
LOST IDEAS


WHERE DO THEY GO WHEN THEY LEAVE US?
DO THEY DIVIDE INTO SMALL, INSIGNIFICANT IDEAS?
BUY LIFE INSURANCE!
NEVER GO OUTSIDE WITHOUT A COAT!
TAKE THE FIRST TRAIN OUT OF TOWN?
RISE UP TO JOIN THE GREAT IDEA IN THE SKY?
SETTLE ON THE HEADS OF UNSUSPECTING PASSERSBY?
BUS STOP
SURE IS SMOGGY TODAY.
YUP.
HAVE AN IDENTITY CRISIS...
MAYBE I'M JUST WATER VAPOR?
ONLY TO REDISCOVER THEIR TRUE NATURE?
AHA!
OR DO THEY FOLLOW US HOME...
SNEAK IN AT SOME UNGODLY HOUR...
AND REFUSE TO LEAVE UNTIL WE PAY ATTENTION?

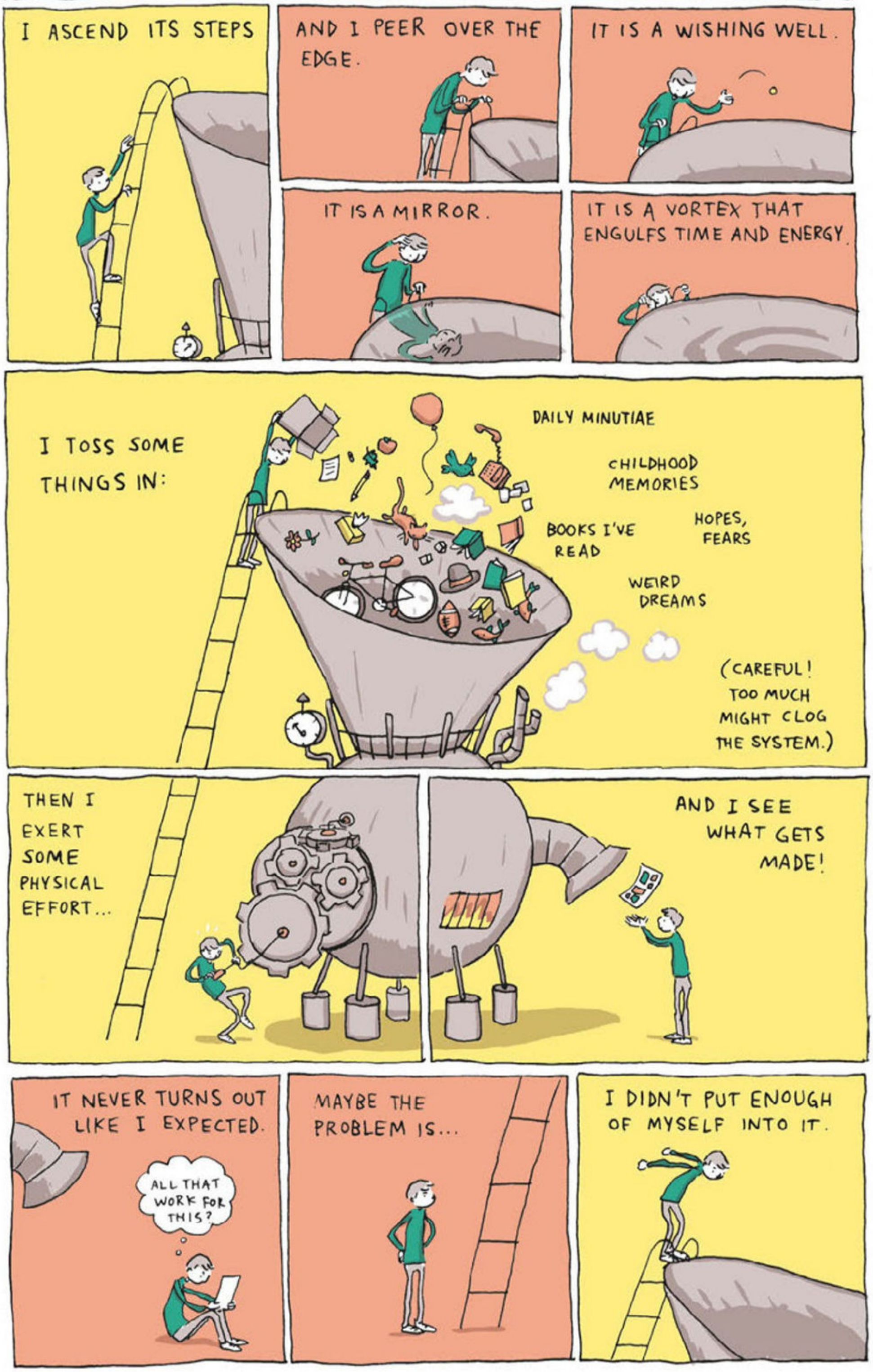
OUTSIDE MY WINDOW


flashes of insight
lofty inventions
things lurking deep in my imagination
scatter and sputter and turn into vapor
the moment I try to get them on paper

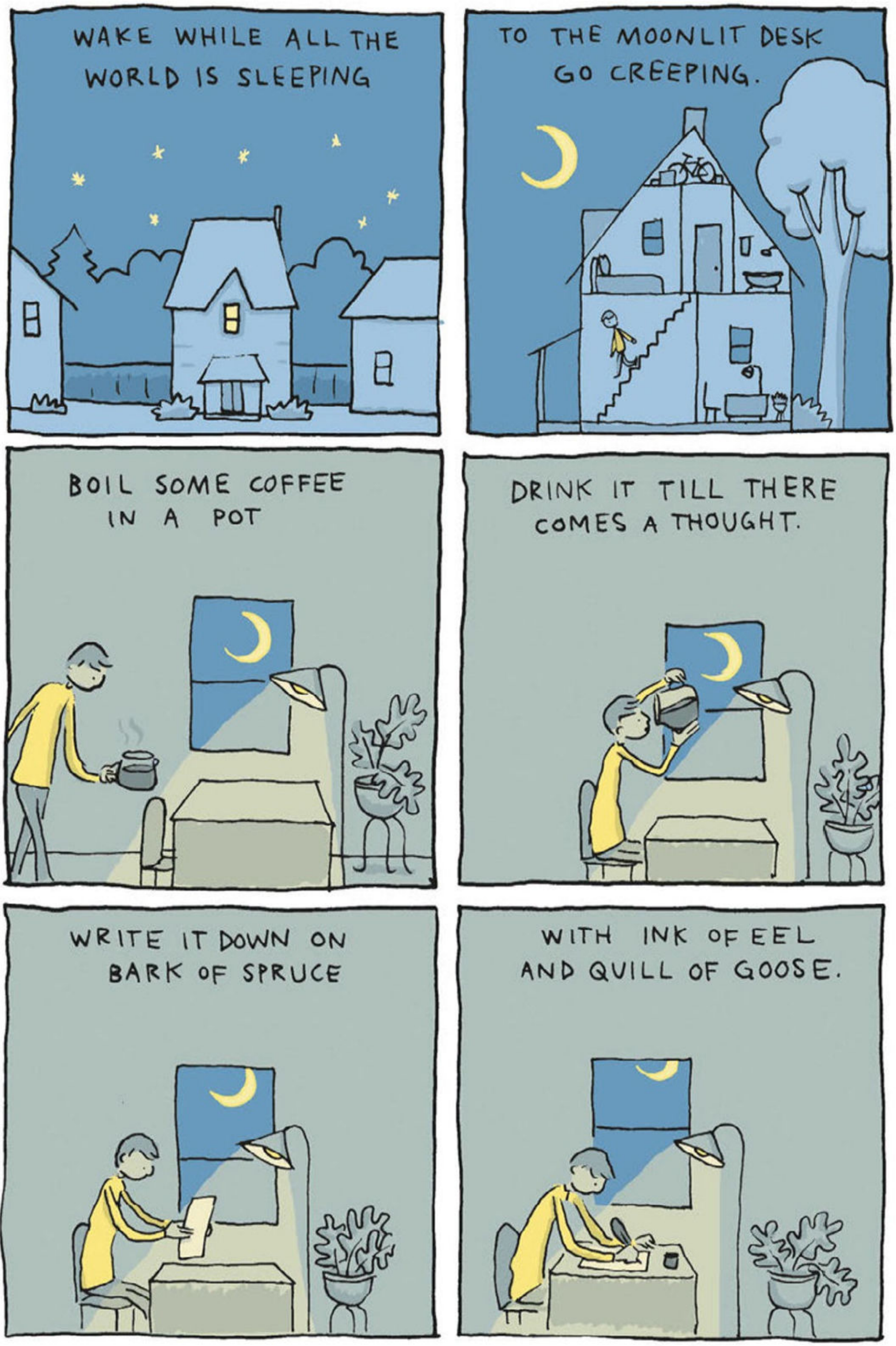
TYPES OF MOTIVATION

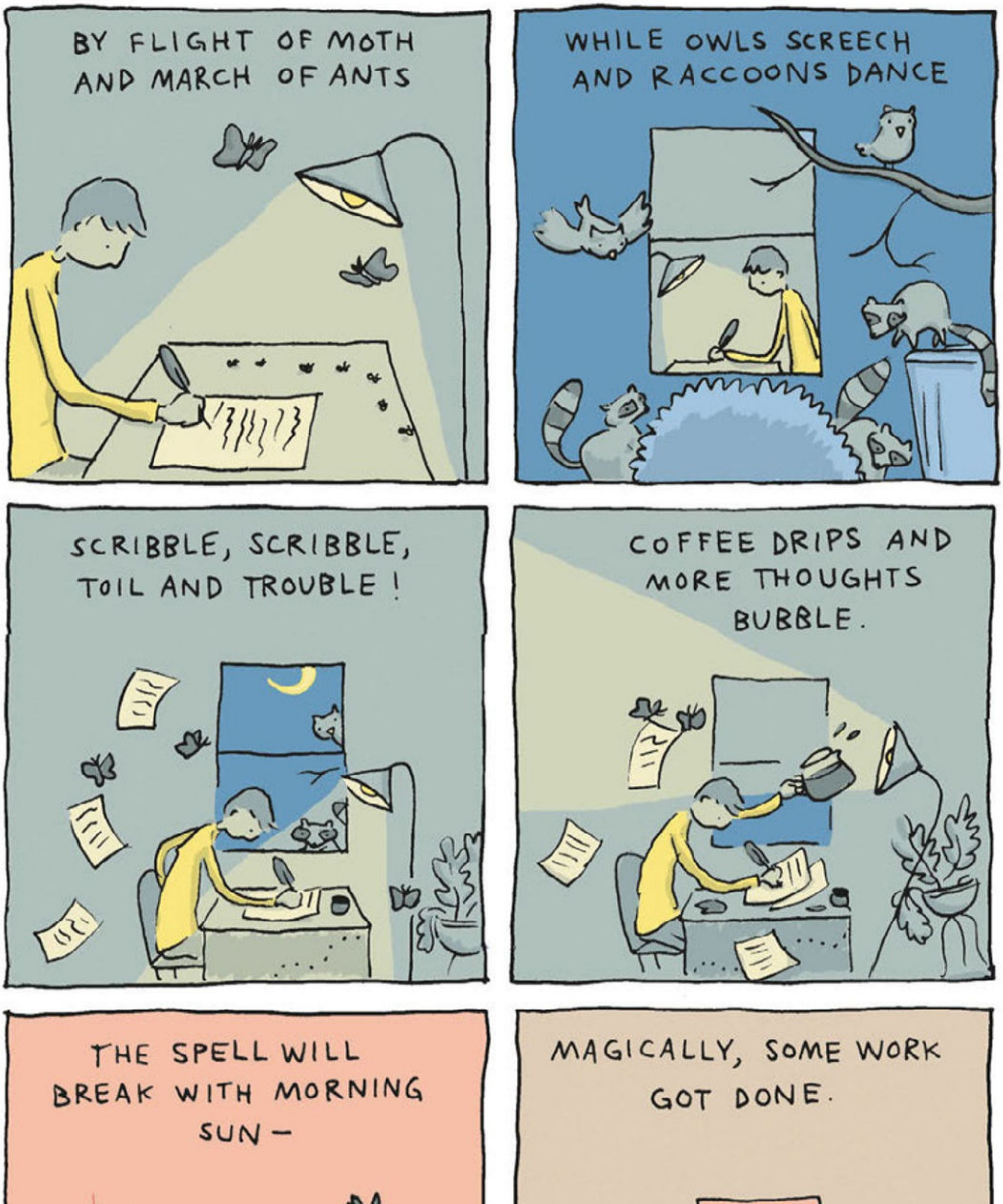

INTERNAL
IT WILL FEEL SO GREAT TO FINISH THIS.
EXTERNAL
MY FANS DEMAND I FINISH!
FRATERNAL
ARE YOU SURE IT'S WORTH FINISHING?
NOCTURNAL
NO SLEEP UNTIL I FINISH!
INFERNAL
MY LIFE WILL BE HELL UNTIL I FINISH THIS.
ETERNAL
FINISHED! MY WORK WILL LIVE FOREVER!

THE CREATIVE PROCESSOR

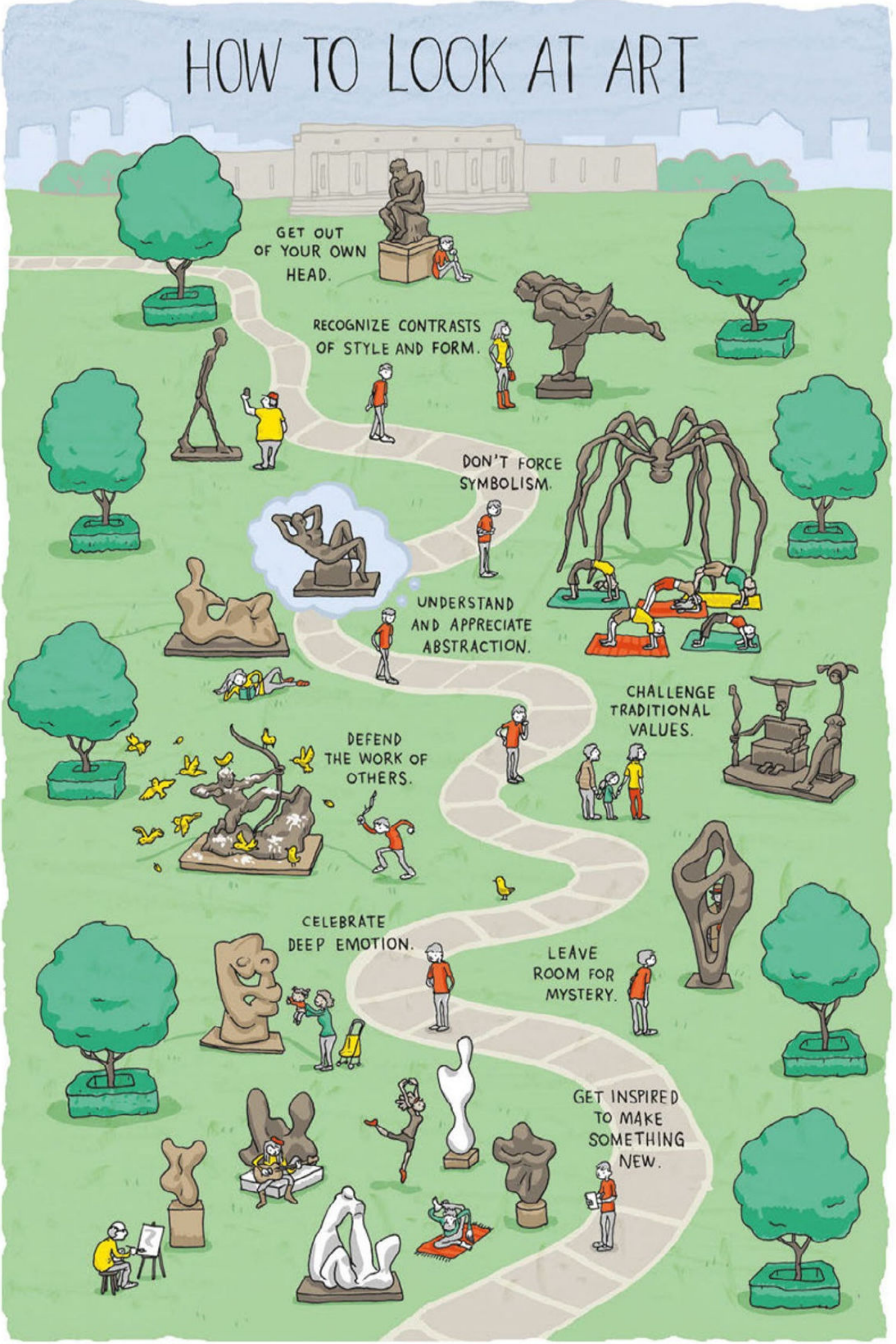

I ASCEND ITS STEPS
AND I PEER OVER THE EDGE.
IT IS A WISHING WELL.
IT IS A MIRROR.
IT IS A VORTEX THAT ENGULFS TIME AND ENERGY.
I TOSS SOME THINGS IN:
DAILY MINUTIAE
CHILDHOOD MEMORIES
BOOKS I'VE READ
HOPES, FEARS
WEIRD DREAMS
(CAREFUL! TOO MUCH MIGHT CLOG THE SYSTEM.)
THEN I EXERT SOME PHYSICAL EFFORT...
AND I SEE WHAT GETS MADE!
IT NEVER TURNS OUT LIKE I EXPECTED.
ALL THAT WORK FOR THIS?
MAYBE THE PROBLEM IS...
I DIDN'T PUT ENOUGH OF MYSELF INTO IT.

AN INCANTATION

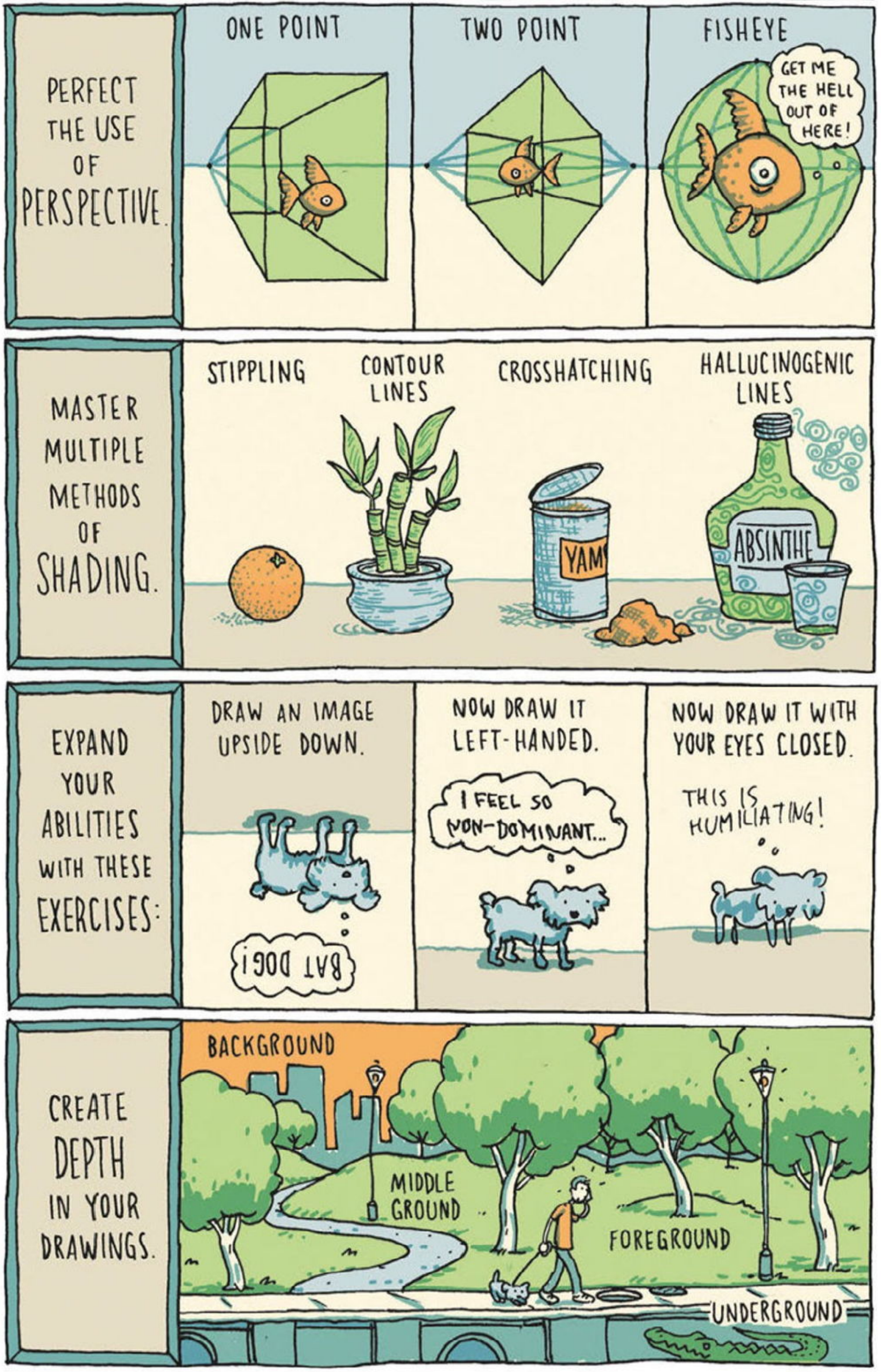

WAKE WHILE ALL THE WORLD IS SLEEPING
TO THE MOONLIT DESK GO CREEPING.
BOIL SOME COFFEE IN A POT
DRINK IT TILL THERE COMES A THOUGHT.
WRITE IT DOWN ON BARK OF SPRUCE
WITH INK OF EEL AND QUILL OF GOOSE.


BY FLIGHT OF MOTH
AND MARCH OF ANTS
WHILE OWLS SCREECH
AND RACCOONS DANCE
SCRIBBLE, SCRIBBLE,
TOIL AND TROUBLE!
COFFEE DRIPS AND
MORE THOUGHTS
BUBBLE.
THE SPELL WILL
BREAK WITH MORNING
SUN –
MAGICALLY, SOME WORK
GOT DONE.

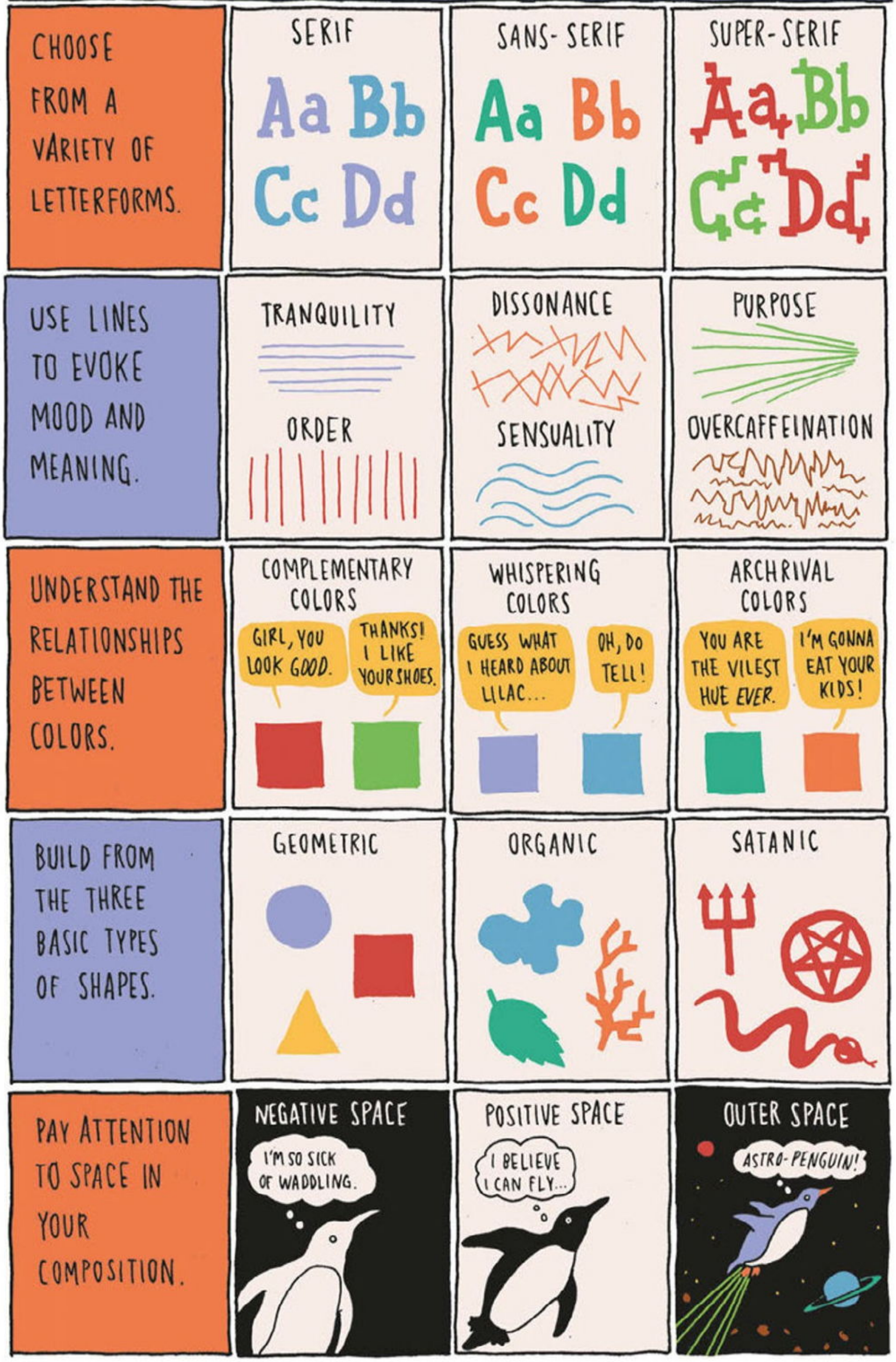
IMITATION


HOW TO LOOK AT ART
GET OUT OF YOUR OWN HEAD.
RECOGNIZE CONTRASTS OF STYLE AND FORM.
DON'T FORCE SYMBOLISM.
UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE ABSTRACTION.
CHALLENGE TRADITIONAL VALUES.
DEFEND THE WORK OF OTHERS.
CELEBRATE DEEP EMOTION.
LEAVE ROOM FOR MYSTERY.
GET INSPIRED TO MAKE SOMETHING NEW.

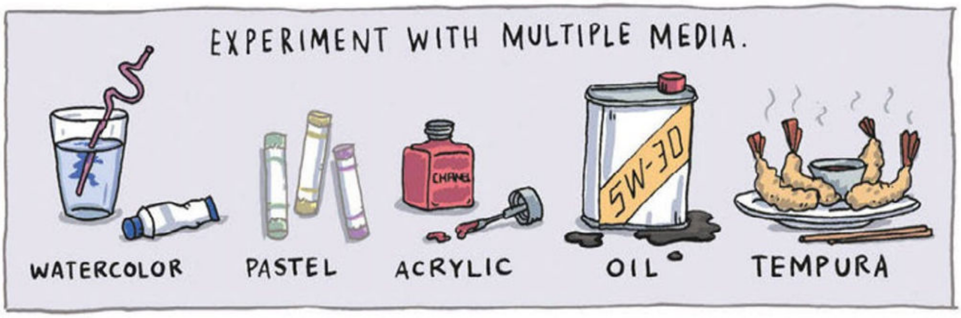
DRAW **LIKE** YOU'VE **NEVER** BEEN **TAUGHT.**

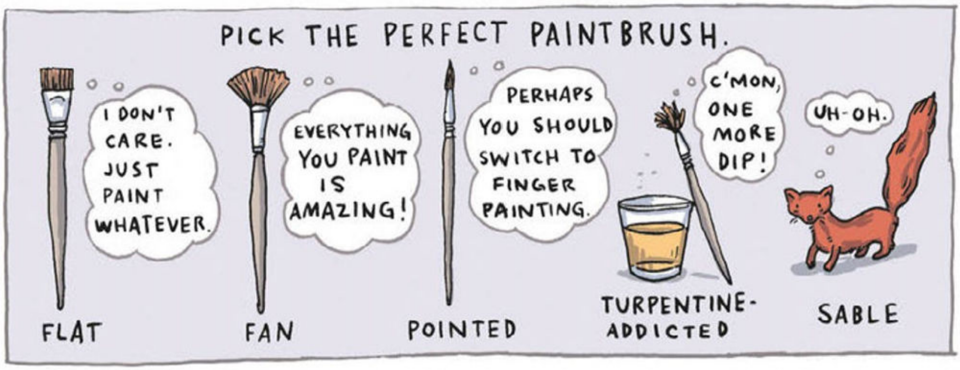

PERFECT THE USE OF PERSPECTIVE.
ONE POINT
TWO POINT
FISHEYE
GET ME THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
MASTER MULTIPLE METHODS OF SHADING.
STIPPLING
CONTOUR LINES
CROSSHATCHING
HALLUCINOGENIC LINES
YAMS
ABSINTHE
EXPAND YOUR ABILITIES WITH THESE EXERCISES:
DRAW AN IMAGE UPSIDE DOWN.
BAT DOG!
NOW DRAW IT LEFT-HANDED.
I FEEL SO NON-DOMINANT...
NOW DRAW IT WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED.
THIS IS HUMILIATING!
CREATE DEPTH IN YOUR DRAWINGS.
BACKGROUND
MIDDLE GROUND
FOREGROUND
UNDERGROUND

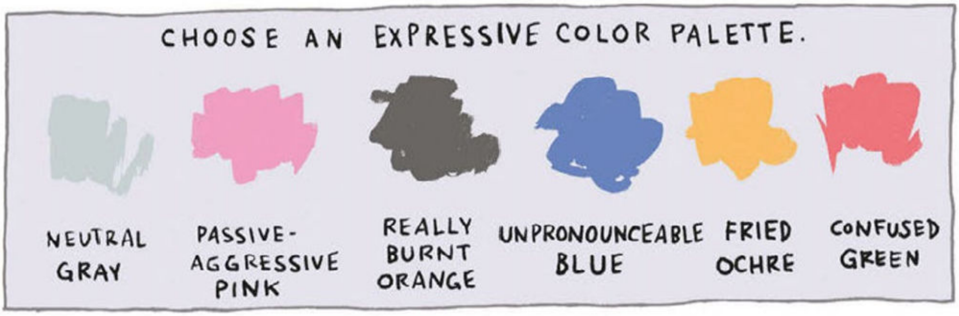
DESIGN LIKE NOBODY'S WATCHING.

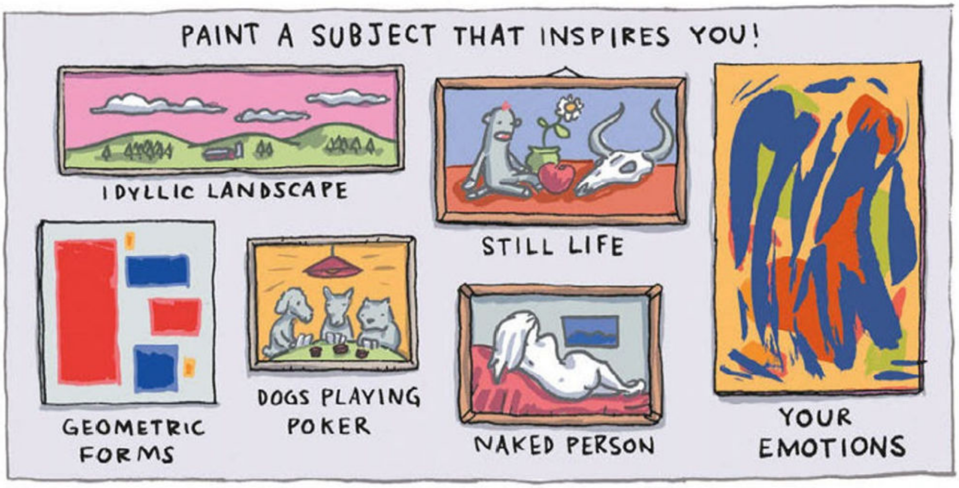

CHOOSE FROM A VARIETY OF LETTERFORMS.
SERIF
Aa Bb Cc Dd
SANS-SERIF
Aa Bb Cc Dd
SUPER-SERIF
Aa Bb Cc Dd
USE LINES TO EVOKE MOOD AND MEANING.
TRANQUILITY
ORDER
DISSONANCE
SENSUALITY
PURPOSE
OVERCAFFEINATION
UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COLORS.
COMPLEMENTARY COLORS
GIRL, YOU LOOK GOOD.
THANKS! I LIKE YOUR SHOES.
WHISPERING COLORS
GUESS WHAT I HEARD ABOUT LILAC...
OH, DO TELL!
ARCHRIVAL COLORS
YOU ARE THE VILEST HUE EVER.
I'M GONNA EAT YOUR KIDS!
BUILD FROM THE THREE BASIC TYPES OF SHAPES.
GEOMETRIC
ORGANIC
SATANIC
PAY ATTENTION TO SPACE IN YOUR COMPOSITION.
NEGATIVE SPACE
I'M SO SICK OF WADDLING.
POSITIVE SPACE
I BELIEVE I CAN FLY...
OUTER SPACE
ASTRO-PENGUIN!

PAINTING FOR NON-MAJORS

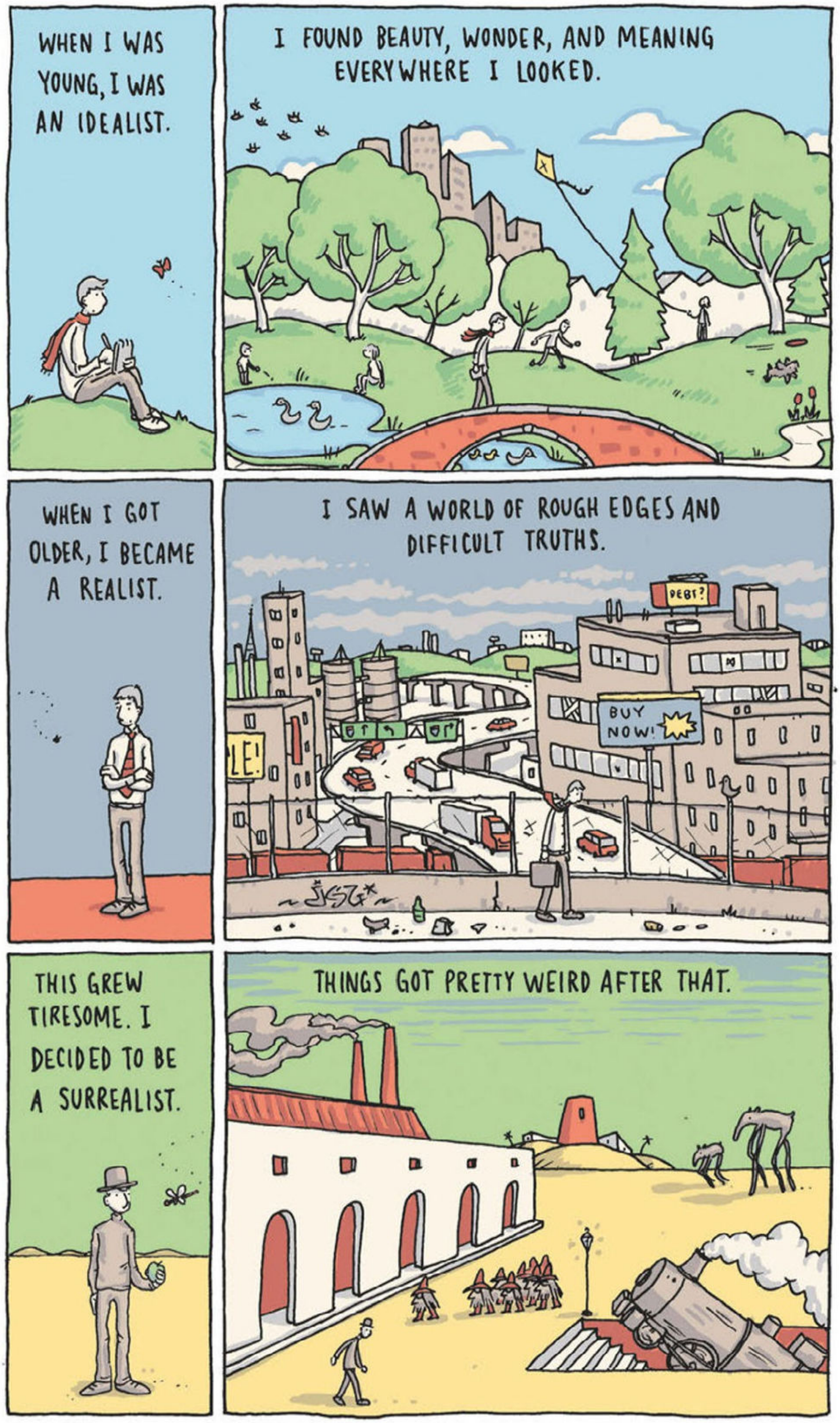

EXPERIMENT WITH MULTIPLE MEDIA.
CHANEL
5W-30
WATERCOLOR
PASTEL
ACRYLIC
OIL
TEMPURA


PICK THE PERFECT PAINTBRUSH.
I DON'T CARE. JUST PAINT WHATEVER.
FLAT
EVERYTHING YOU PAINT IS AMAZING!
FAN
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SWITCH TO FINGER PAINTING.
POINTED
C'MON, ONE MORE DIP!
TURPENTINE-ADDICTED
UH-OH.
SABLE

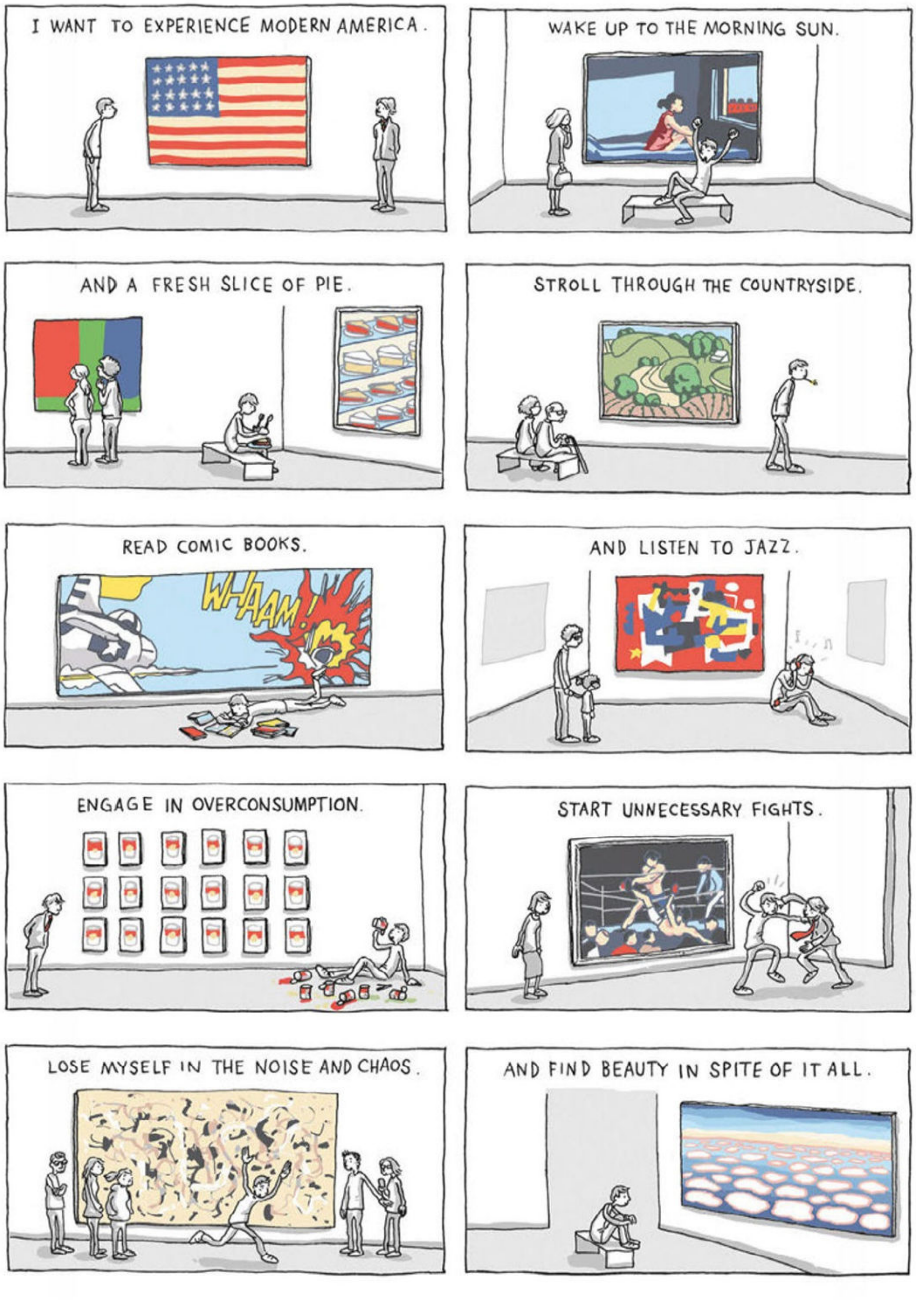

CHOOSE AN EXPRESSIVE COLOR PALETTE.
NEUTRAL GRAY
PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE PINK
REALLY BURNT ORANGE
UNPRONOUNCEABLE BLUE
FRIED OCHRE
CONFUSED GREEN


PAINT A SUBJECT THAT INSPIRES YOU!
IDYLLIC LANDSCAPE
STILL LIFE
GEOMETRIC FORMS
DOGS PLAYING POKER
NAKED PERSON
YOUR EMOTIONS

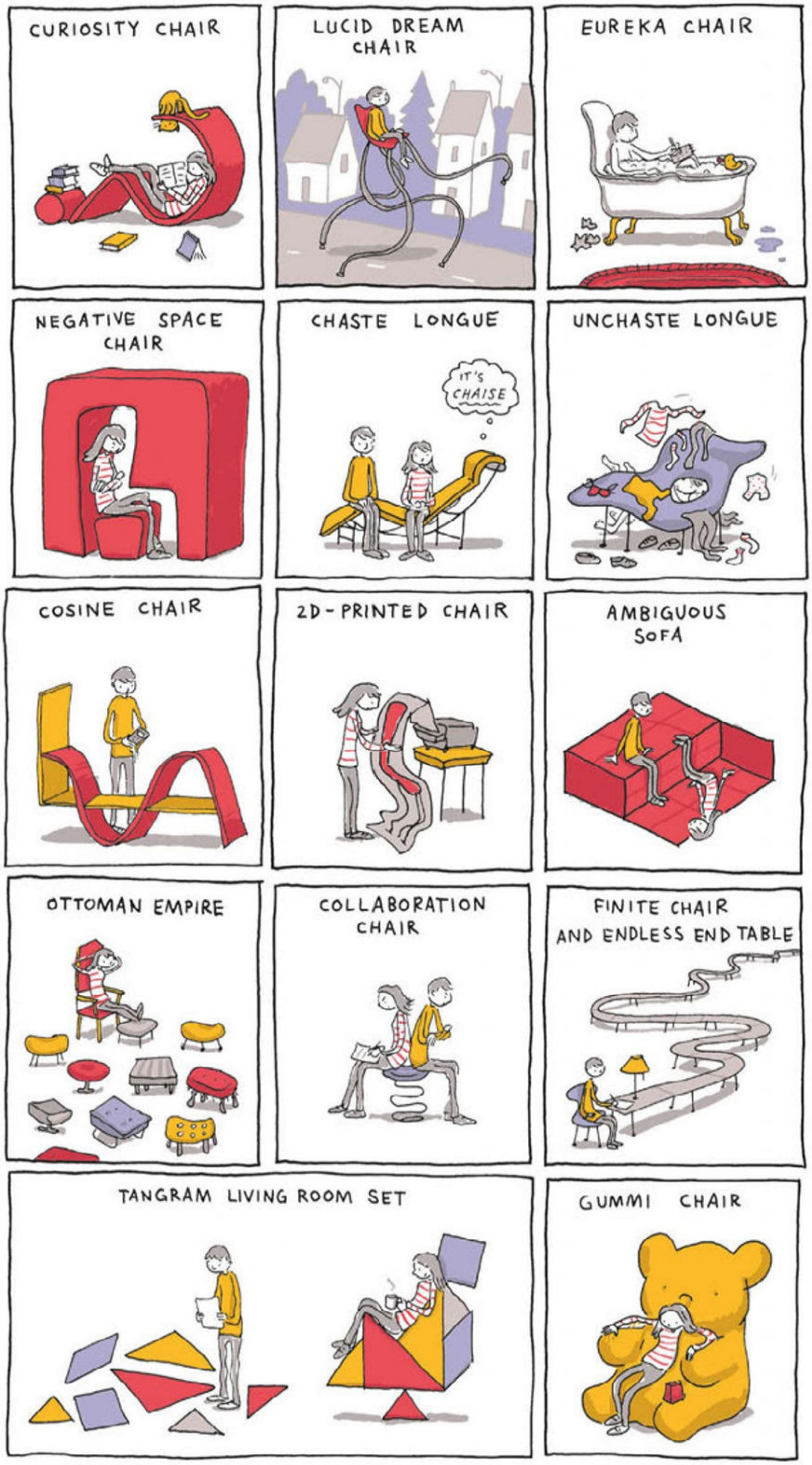
THE ART OF LIVING


WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WAS AN IDEALIST.
I FOUND BEAUTY, WONDER, AND MEANING EVERYWHERE I LOOKED.
WHEN I GOT OLDER, I BECAME A REALIST.
I SAW A WORLD OF ROUGH EDGES AND DIFFICULT TRUTHS.
DEBT?
BUY NOW!
LE!
THIS GREW TIRESOME. I DECIDED TO BE A SURREALIST.
THINGS GOT PRETTY WEIRD AFTER THAT.

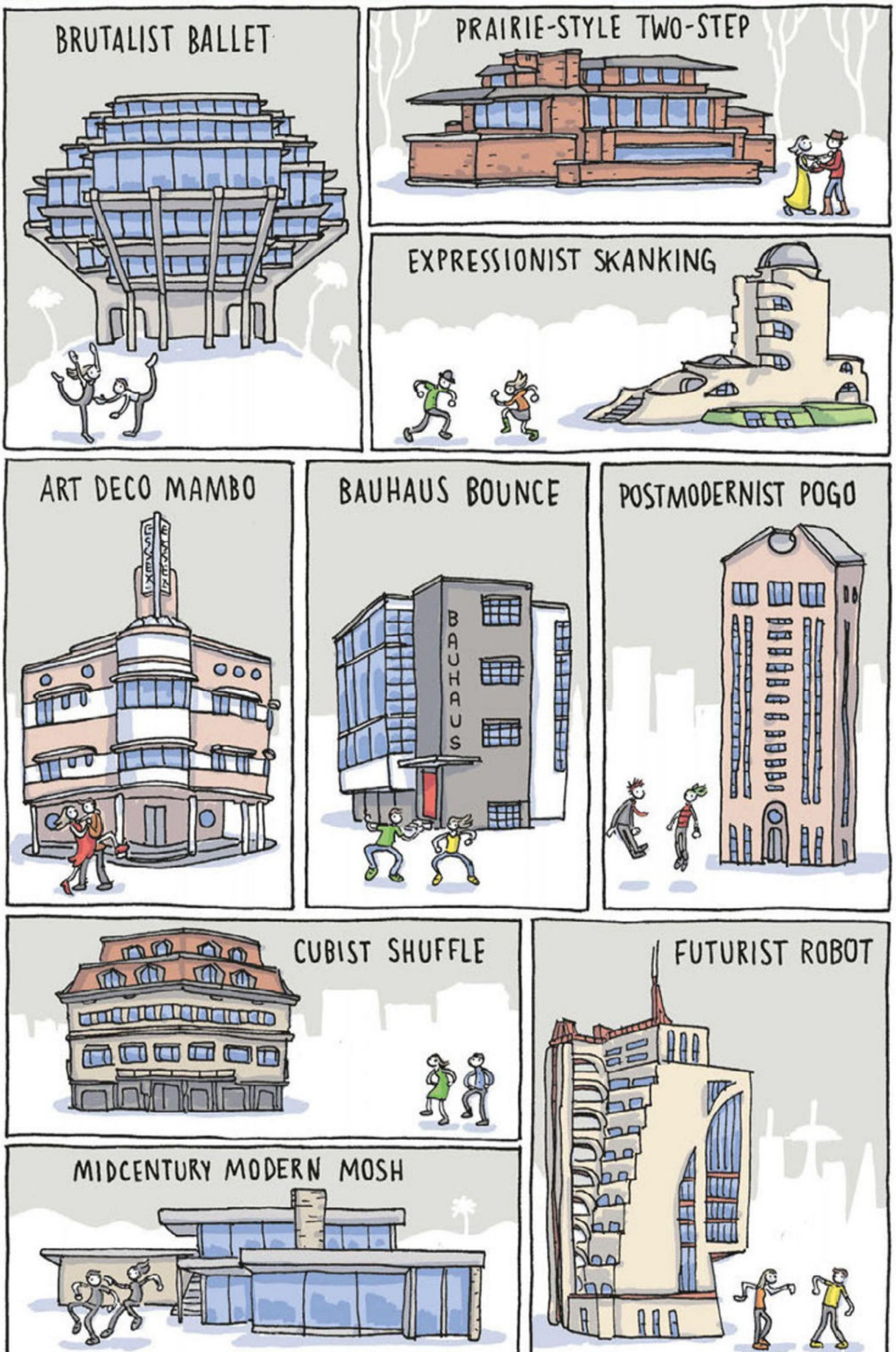
AMERICAN ART


I WANT TO EXPERIENCE MODERN AMERICA.
WAKE UP TO THE MORNING SUN.
AND A FRESH SLICE OF PIE.
STROLL THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE.
READ COMIC BOOKS.
WHAAM!
AND LISTEN TO JAZZ.
ENGAGE IN OVERCONSUMPTION.
START UNNECESSARY FIGHTS.
LOSE MYSELF IN THE NOISE AND CHAOS.
AND FIND BEAUTY IN SPITE OF IT ALL.

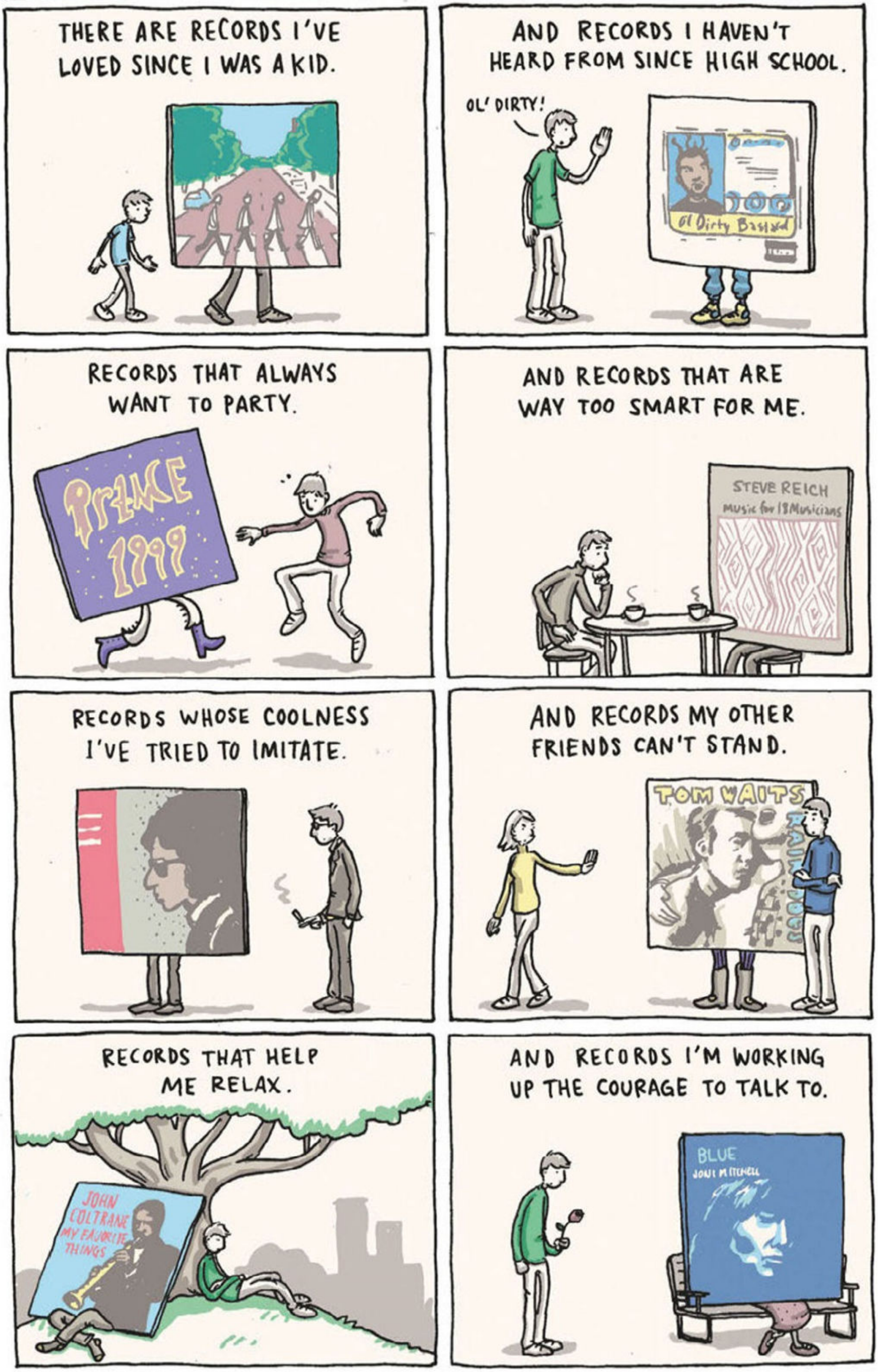
DESIGNER CHAIRS


CURIOSITY CHAIR
LUCID DREAM CHAIR
EUREKA CHAIR
NEGATIVE SPACE CHAIR
CHASTE LONGUE
IT'S CHAISE
UNCHASTE LONGUE
COSINE CHAIR
2D-PRINTED CHAIR
AMBIGUOUS SOFA
OTTOMAN EMPIRE
COLLABORATION CHAIR
FINITE CHAIR AND ENDLESS END TABLE
TANGRAM LIVING ROOM SET
GUMMI CHAIR

DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

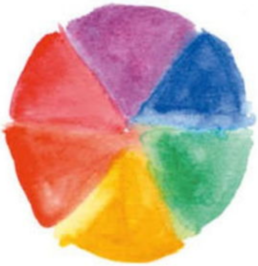

BRUTALIST BALLET
PRAIRIE-STYLE TWO-STEP
EXPRESSIONIST SKANKING
ART DECO MAMBO
REX
BAUHAUS BOUNCE
BAUHAUS
POSTMODERNIST POGO
CUBIST SHUFFLE
FUTURIST ROBOT
MIDCENTURY MODERN MOSH

SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE RECORDS.

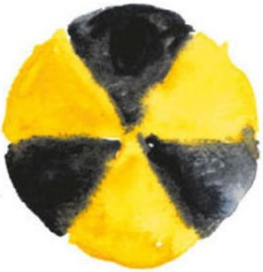

THERE ARE RECORDS I'VE LOVED SINCE I WAS A KID.
AND RECORDS I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.
OL' DIRTY!
Ol Dirty Bastard
RECORDS THAT ALWAYS WANT TO PARTY.
PRINCE 1999
AND RECORDS THAT ARE WAY TOO SMART FOR ME.
STEVE REICH
Music for 18 Musicians
RECORDS WHOSE COOLNESS I'VE TRIED TO IMITATE.
AND RECORDS MY OTHER FRIENDS CAN'T STAND.
TOM WAITS
RAIN DOGS
RECORDS THAT HELP ME RELAX.
JOHN COLTRANE
MY FAVORITE THINGS
AND RECORDS I'M WORKING UP THE COURAGE TO TALK TO.
BLUE
JONI MITCHELL

COLOR STUDIES

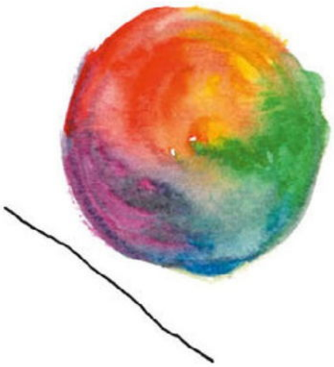
COLOR WHEEL



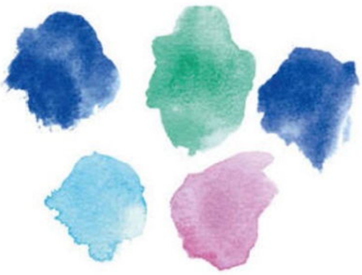
RADIOACTIVE COLOR WHEEL



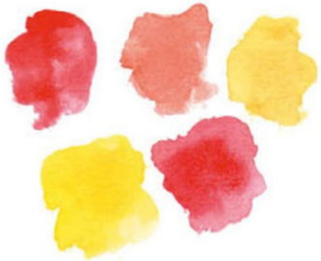
COLOR WHEEL ROLLING DOWNHILL



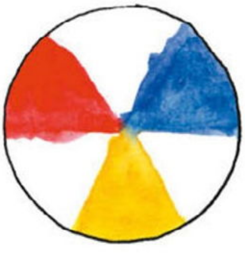
COOL COLORS



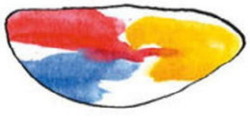
UNCOOL COLORS



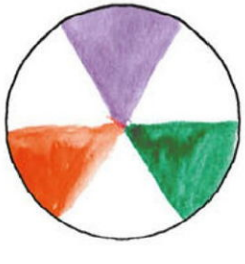
PRIMARY COLOR BEACHBALL



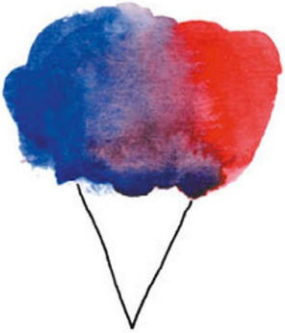
PRIMARY BEACHBALL DEFLATED



LUCKILY SOMEONE BROUGHT A SECONDARY BEACHBALL



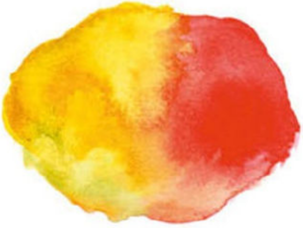
BLUE + RED =



SNO-CONE

(careful, it's dripping!)

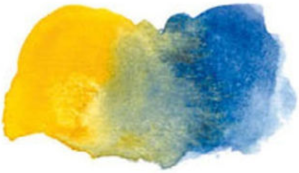
RED + YELLOW =



MANGO

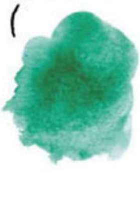
(squeeze to
test ripeness)

BLUE + YELLOW =

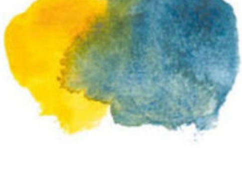


...GREEN?

NICE TRY.

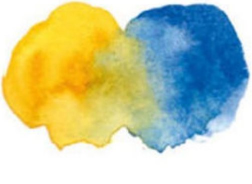


LET'S TRY AGAIN.

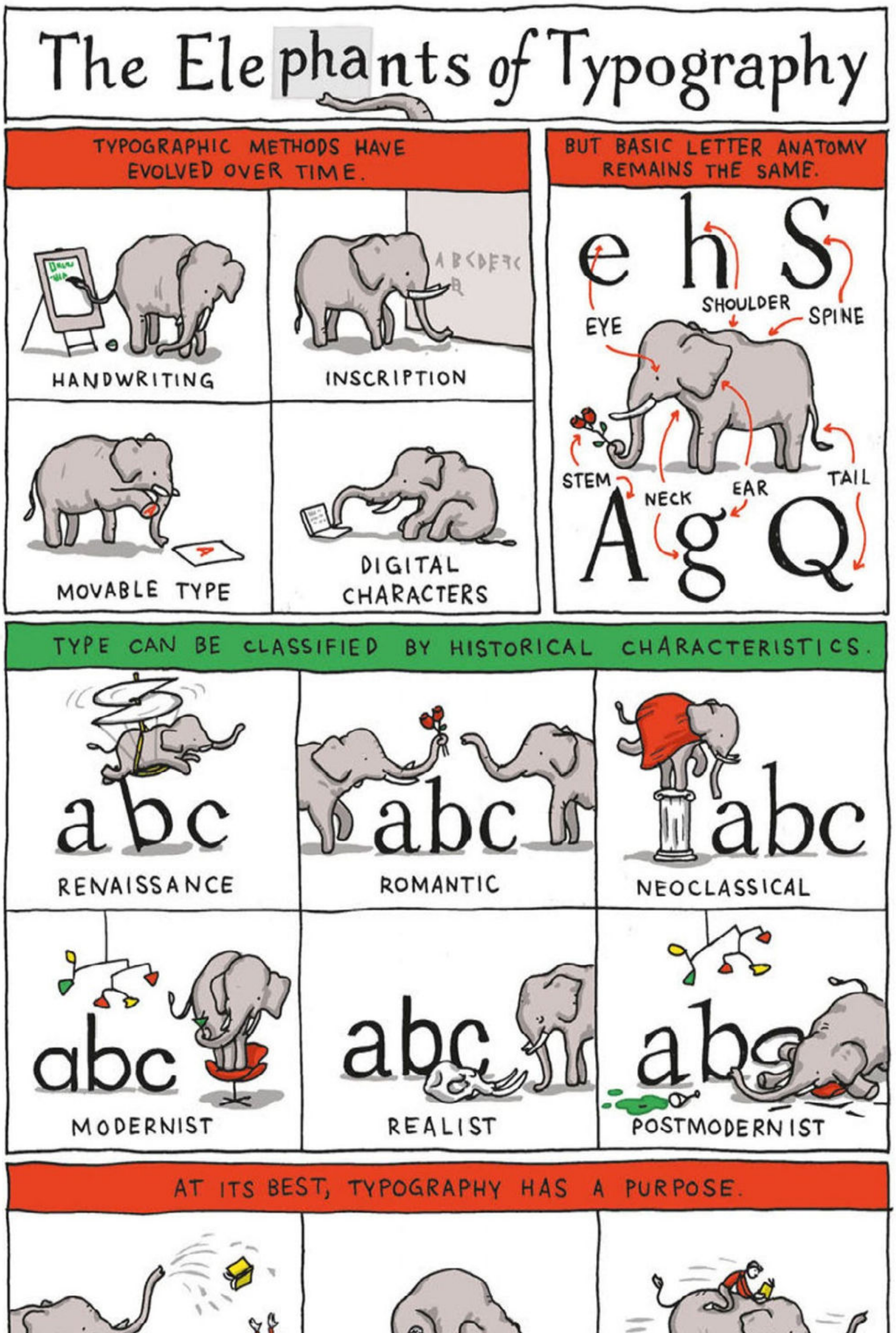


STILL NOT
WORKING.

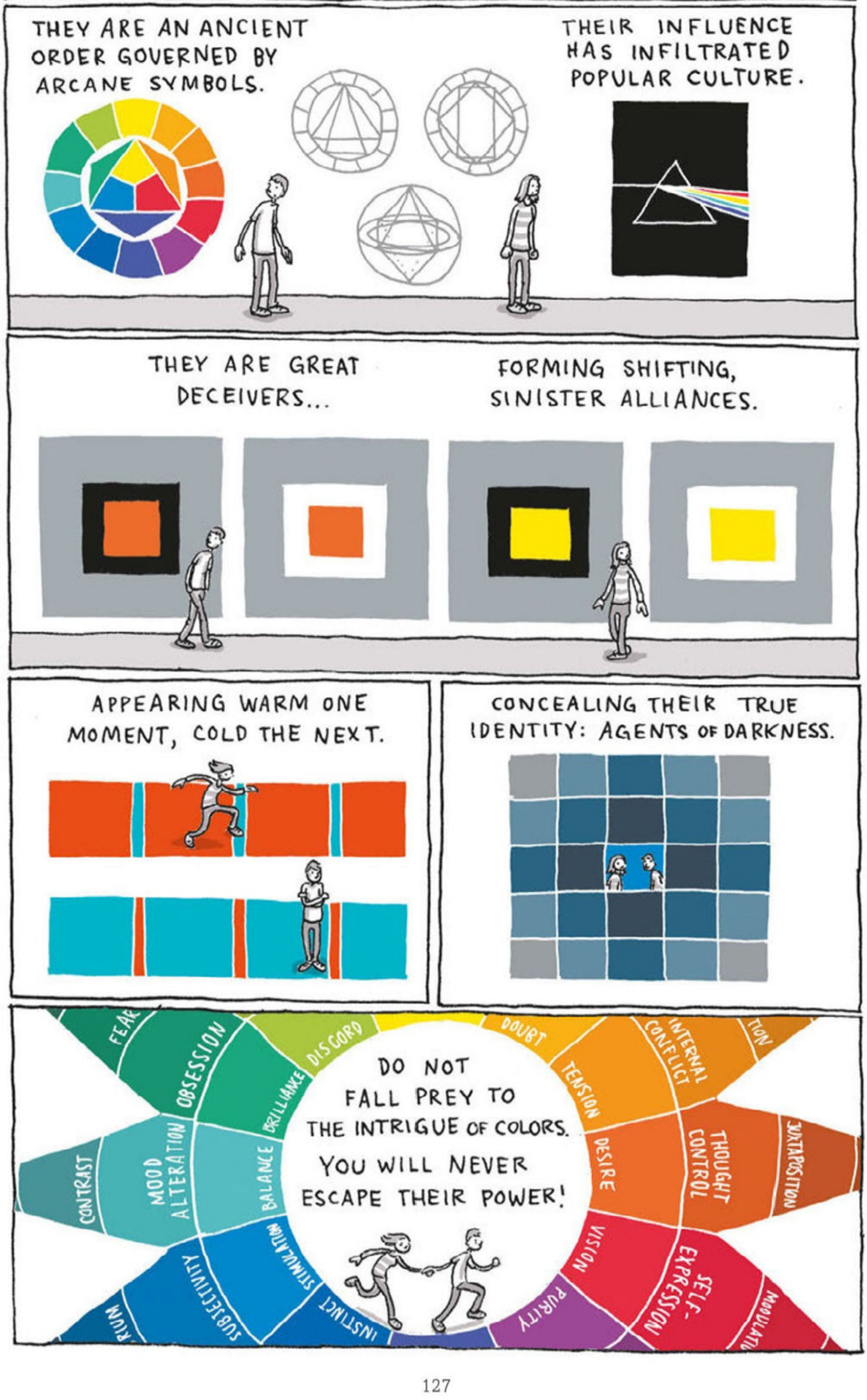
IT APPEARS WE'VE
BEEN LIED TO.

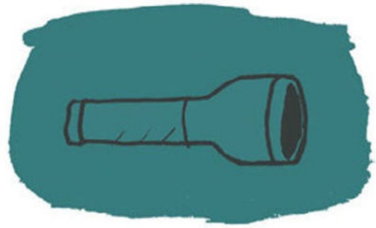


I AM UNMIXABLE!

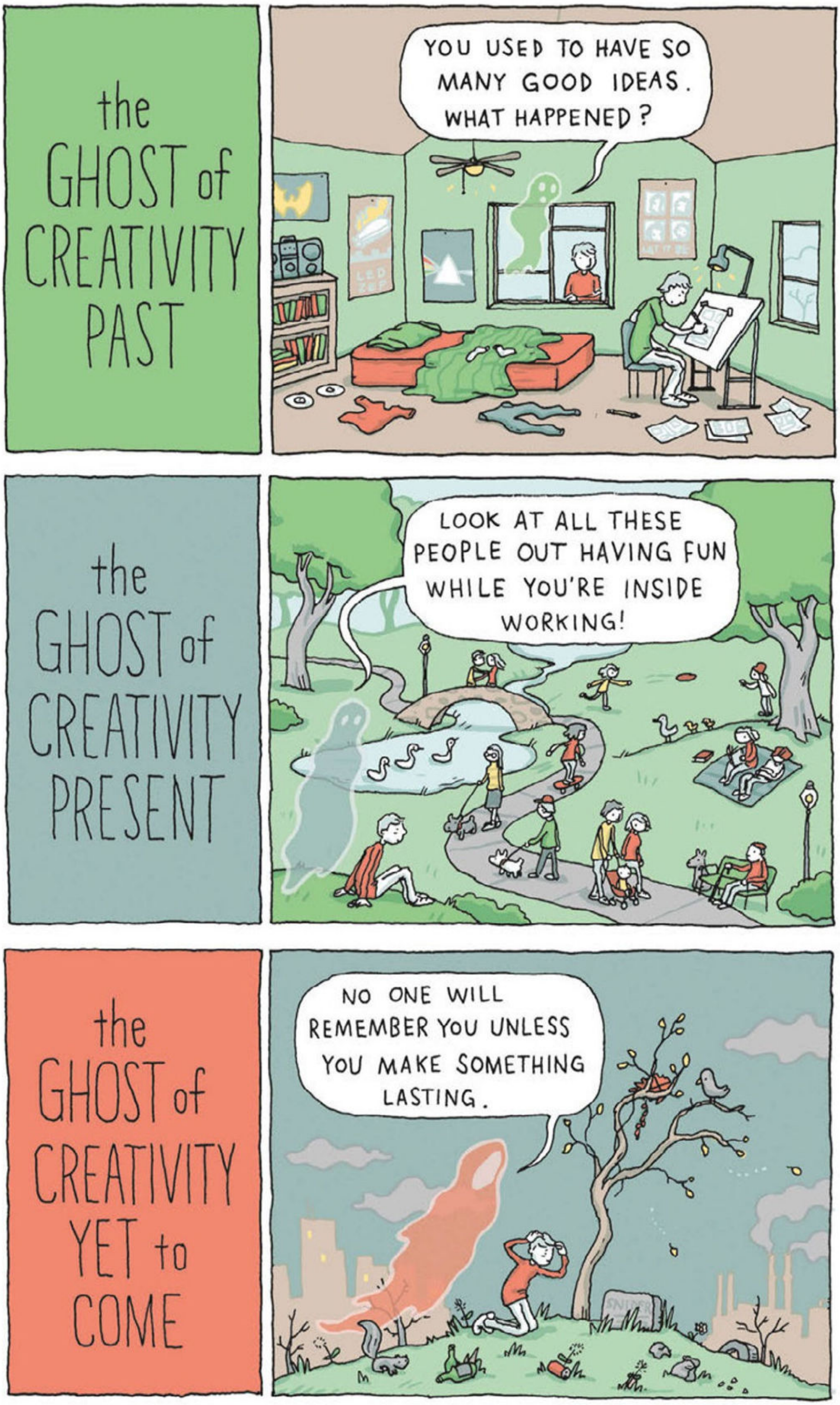

The Elephants of Typography
TYPOGRAPHIC METHODS HAVE EVOLVED OVER TIME.
HANDWRITING
INSCRIPTION
MOVABLE TYPE
DIGITAL CHARACTERS
BUT BASIC LETTER ANATOMY REMAINS THE SAME.
e h S
EYE
SHOULDER
SPINE
STEM
NECK
EAR
TAIL
A g Q
TYPE CAN BE CLASSIFIED BY HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS.
abc
RENAISSANCE
abc
ROMANTIC
abc
NEOCLASSICAL
abc
MODERNIST
abc
REALIST
abc
POSTMODERNIST
AT ITS BEST, TYPOGRAPHY HAS A PURPOSE.
TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE TEXT.
TO HUMBLY SUPPORT ITS CONTENTS.
AND TO REVEAL THE THRILLS FOUND WITHIN.

THE CONSPIRACY OF COLORS

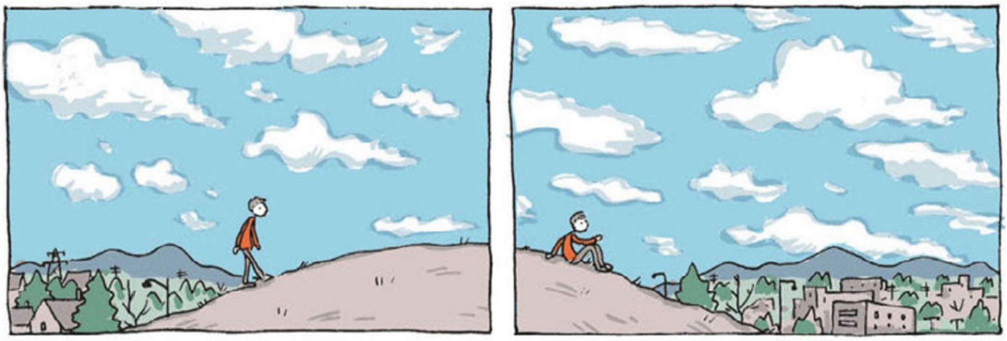

THEY ARE AN ANCIENT ORDER GOVERNED BY ARCANE SYMBOLS.
THEIR INFLUENCE HAS INFILTRATED POPULAR CULTURE.
THEY ARE GREAT DECEIVERS...
FORMING SHIFTING, SINISTER ALLIANCES.
APPEARING WARM ONE MOMENT, COLD THE NEXT.
CONCEALING THEIR TRUE IDENTITY: AGENTS OF DARKNESS.
FEAR
OBSESSION
DISCORD
DOUBT
INTERNAL CONFLICT
TION
BRILLIANCE
TENSION
CONTRAST
MOOD ALTERATION
BALANCE
DO NOT FALL PREY TO THE INTRIGUE OF COLORS.
YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE THEIR POWER!
DESIRE
THOUGHT CONTROL
JUXTAPOSITION
STIMULATION
SUBJECTIVITY
RIUM
INSTINCT
PURITY
VISION
SELF-EXPRESSION
MODULATIO



DESPERATION

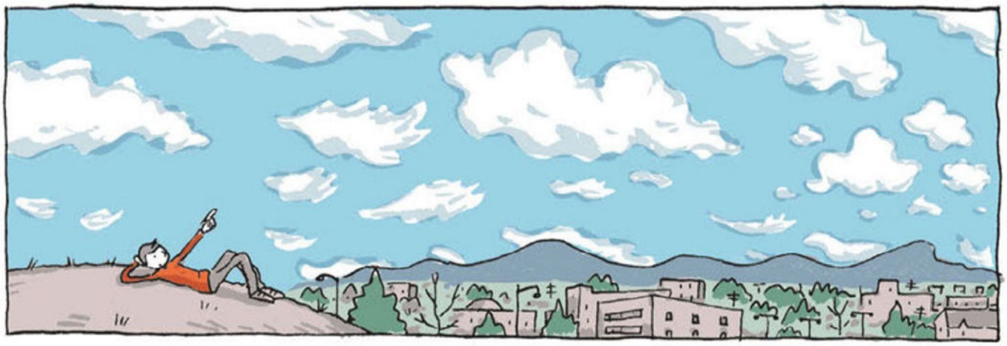

the GHOST of CREATIVITY PAST
YOU USED TO HAVE SO MANY GOOD IDEAS. WHAT HAPPENED?
LED ZEP
LET IT BE
the GHOST of CREATIVITY PRESENT
LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE OUT HAVING FUN WHILE YOU'RE INSIDE WORKING!
the GHOST of CREATIVITY YET to COME
NO ONE WILL REMEMBER YOU UNLESS YOU MAKE SOMETHING LASTING.

partly cloudy

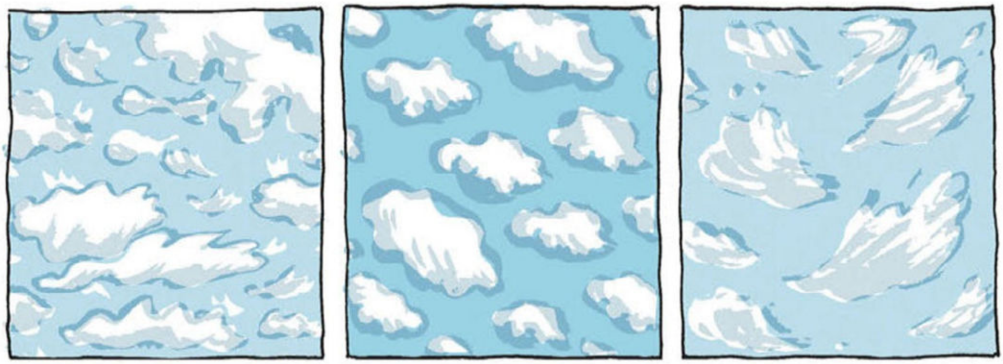


ON CAREFREE AFTERNOONS I CLIMB MY FAVORITE HILL.

I SIT AND WATCH THE CLOUDS MOVE ACROSS THE SKY.



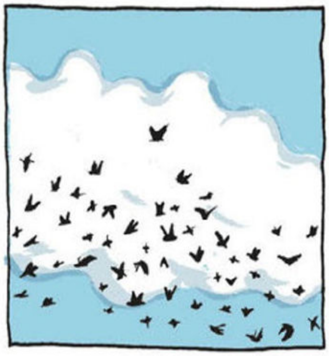
IF I STARE LONG ENOUGH, THEY TAKE ON NEW SHAPES.



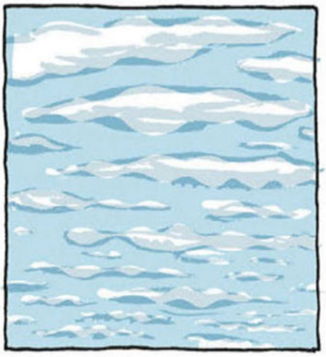
A CLUTTERED APARTMENT

RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC

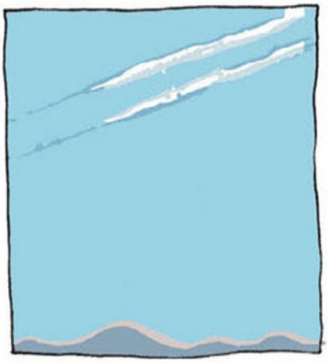
AN AWKWARD CONVERSATION



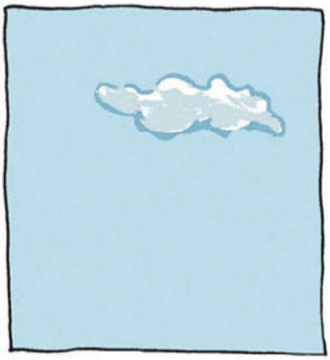
UNANSWERED EMAILS



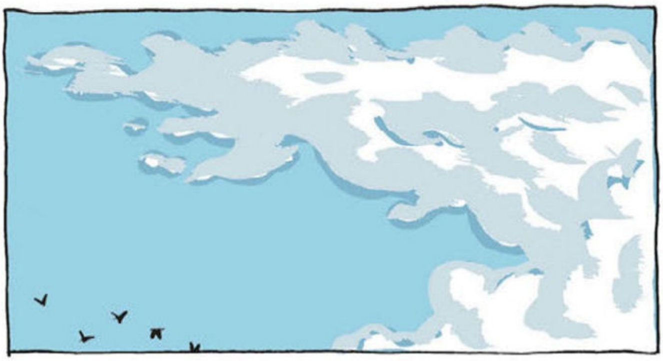
PILES OF STUDENT LOAN DEBT



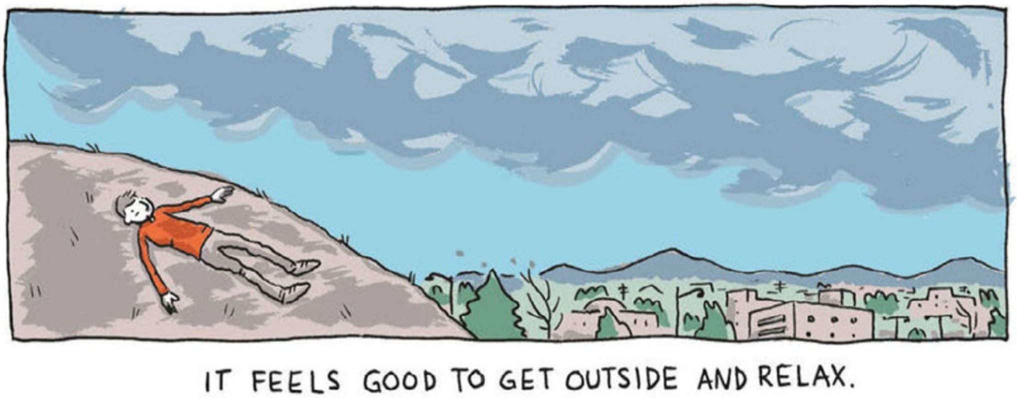
MISSED OPPORTUNITIES



THINGS LEFT UNSAID

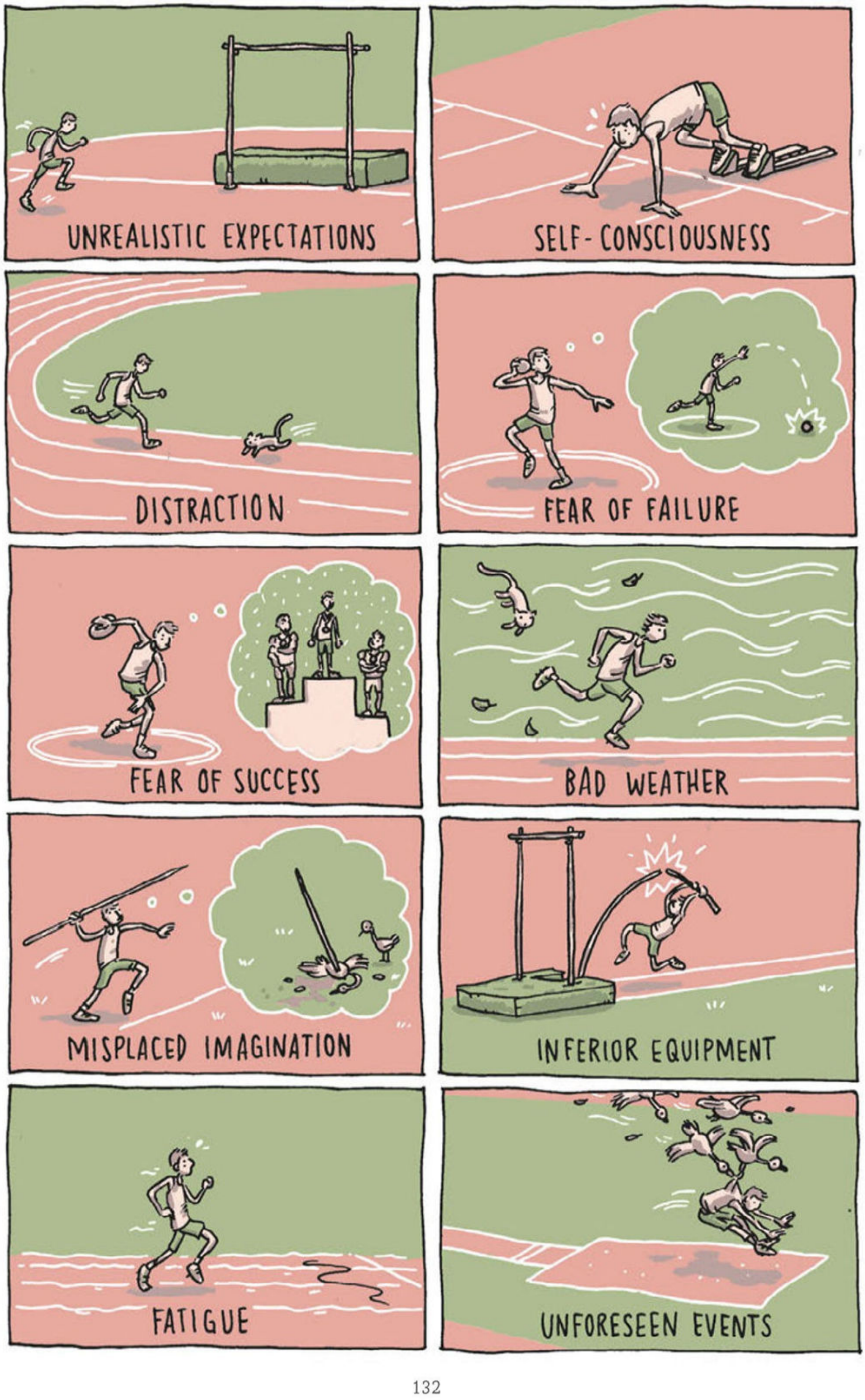


THE VAST, LOOMING UNKNOWN

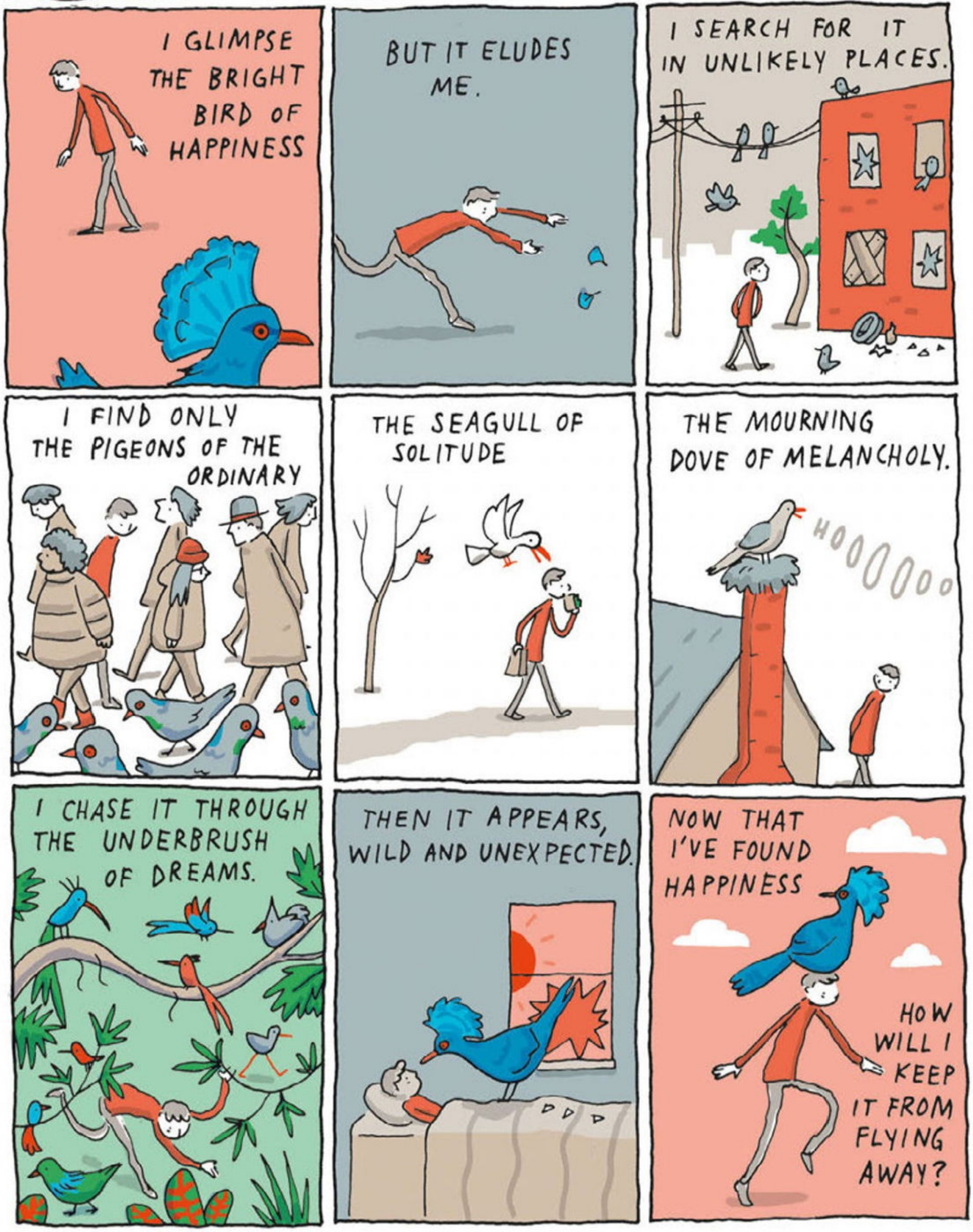


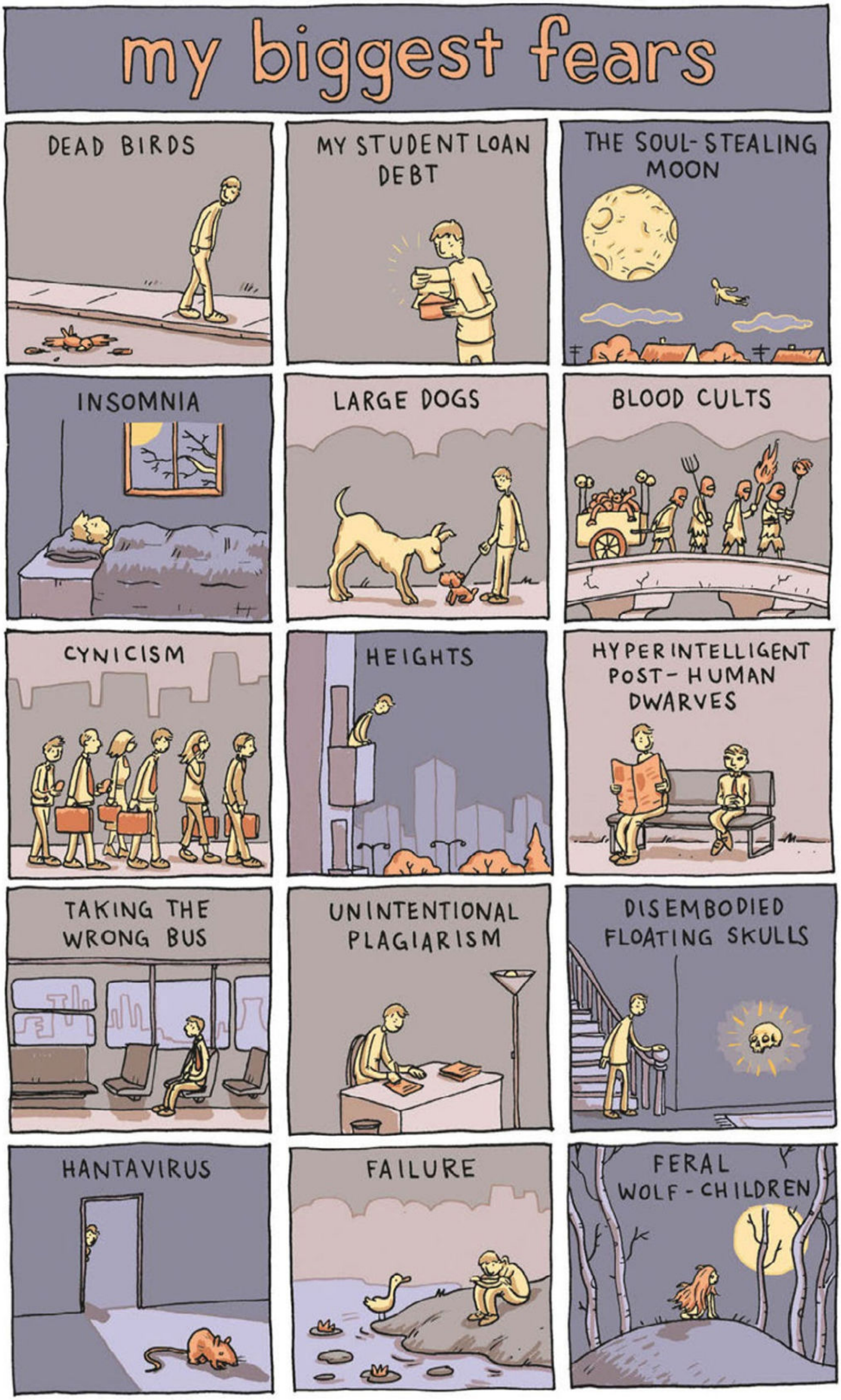
IT FEELS GOOD TO GET OUTSIDE AND RELAX.

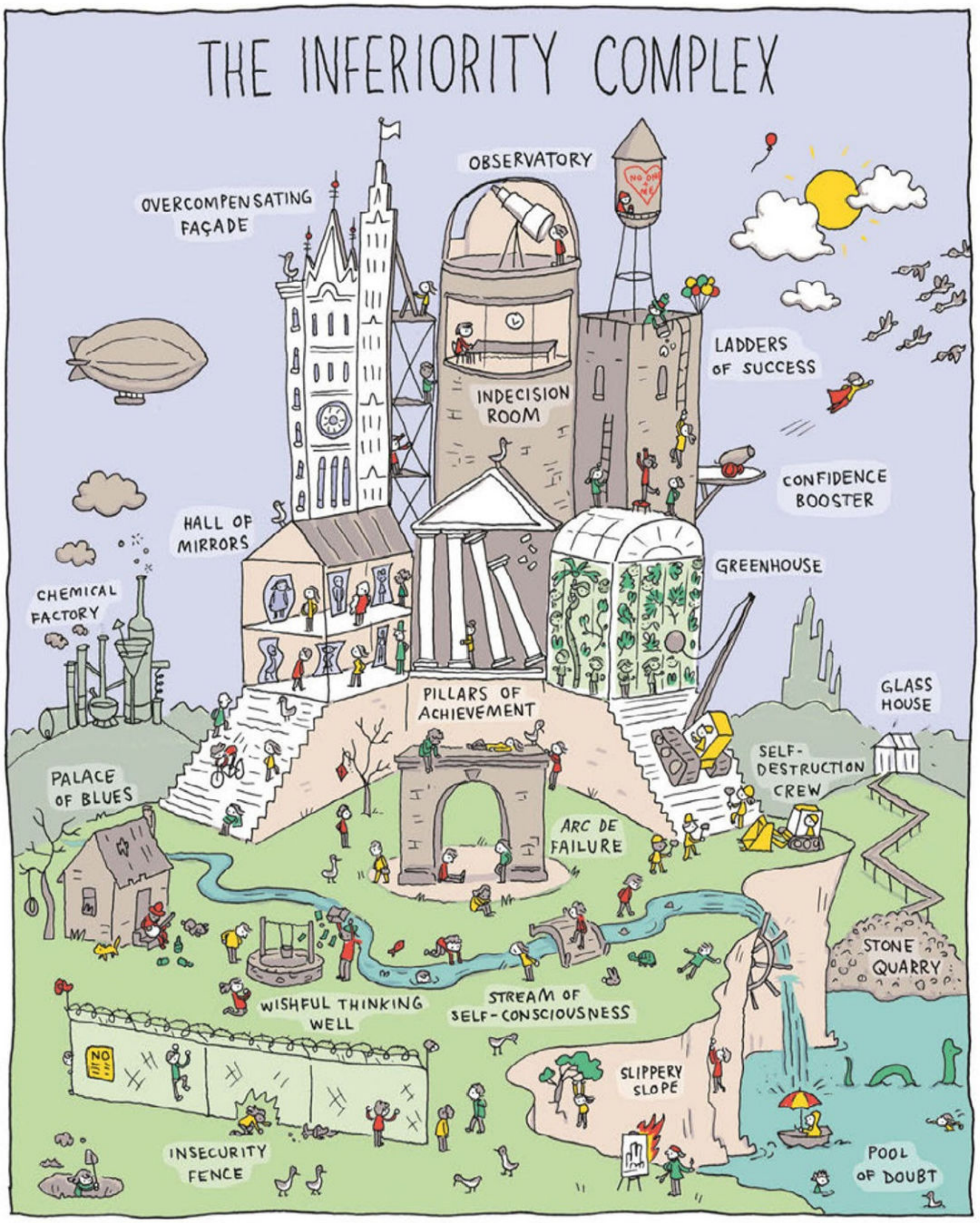
THE INTERNAL DECATHLON

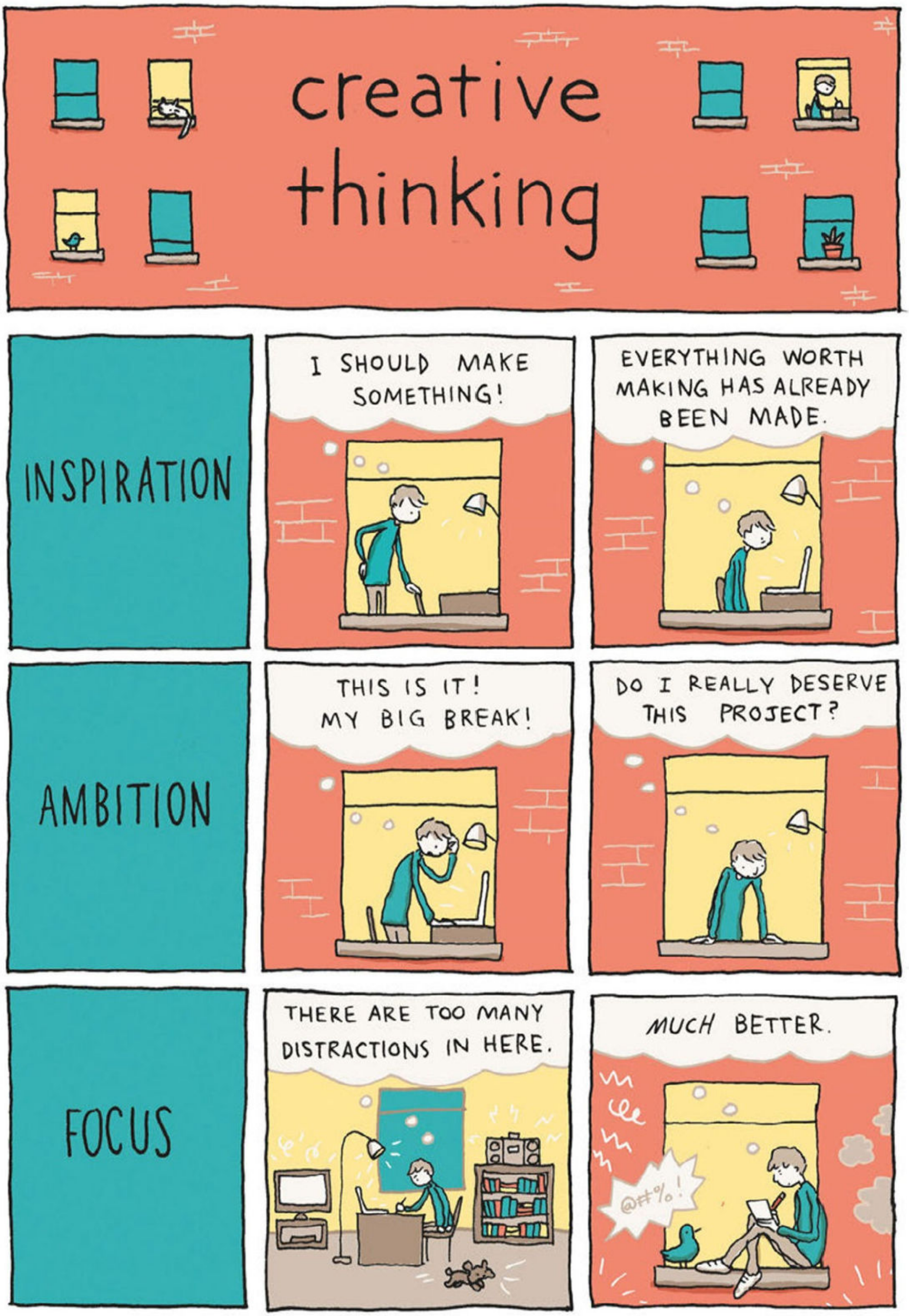

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS
SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS
DISTRACTION
FEAR OF FAILURE
FEAR OF SUCCESS
BAD WEATHER
MISPLACED IMAGINATION
INFERIOR EQUIPMENT
FATIGUE
UNFORESEEN EVENTS

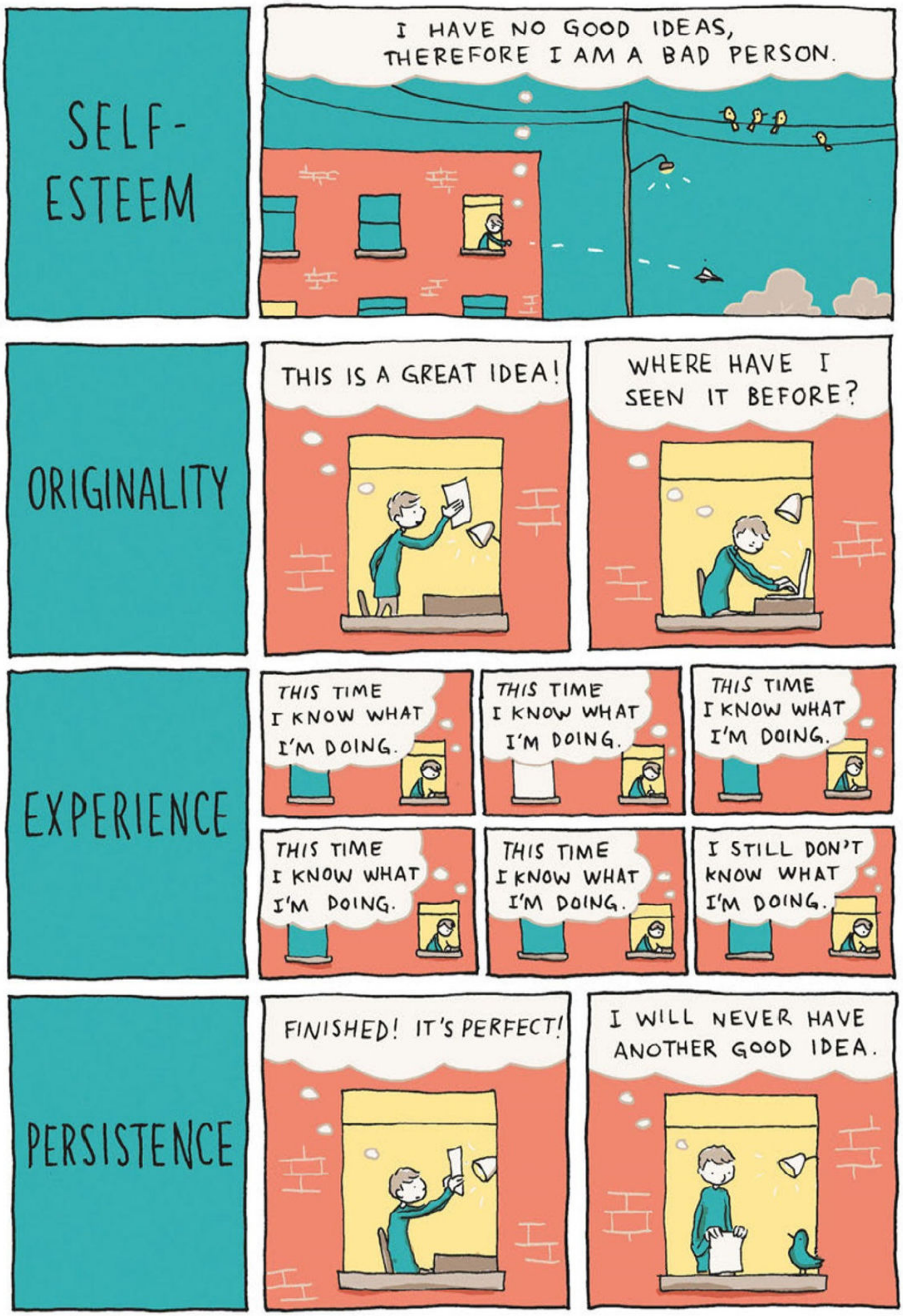
CHASING HAPPINESS

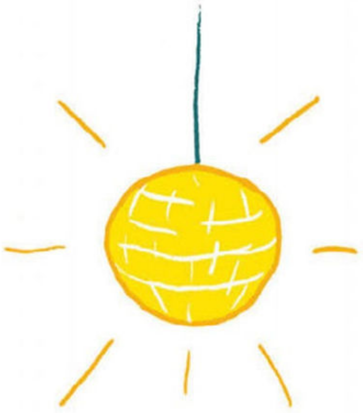

I GLIMPSE THE BRIGHT BIRD OF HAPPINESS
BUT IT ELUDES ME.
I SEARCH FOR IT IN UNLIKELY PLACES.
I FIND ONLY THE PIGEONS OF THE ORDINARY
THE SEAGULL OF SOLITUDE
THE MOURNING DOVE OF MELANCHOLY.
HOOOOoo
I CHASE IT THROUGH THE UNDERBRUSH OF DREAMS.
THEN IT APPEARS, WILD AND UNEXPECTED.
NOW THAT I'VE FOUND HAPPINESS
HOW WILL I KEEP IT FROM FLYING AWAY?


my biggest fears
DEAD BIRDS
MY STUDENT LOAN DEBT
THE SOUL-STEALING MOON
INSOMNIA
LARGE DOGS
BLOOD CULTS
CYNICISM
HEIGHTS
HYPERINTELLIGENT POST-HUMAN DWARVES
TAKING THE WRONG BUS
UNINTENTIONAL PLAGIARISM
DISEMBODIED FLOATING SKULLS
HANTAVIRUS
FAILURE
FERAL WOLF-CHILDREN


THE INFERIORITY COMPLEX
OBSERVATORY
NO ONE + ME
OVERCOMPENSATING FAÇADE
LADDERS OF SUCCESS
INDECISION ROOM
CONFIDENCE BOOSTER
HALL OF MIRRORS
GREENHOUSE
CHEMICAL FACTORY
GLASS HOUSE
PILLARS OF ACHIEVEMENT
SELF-DESTRUCTION CREW
PALACE OF BLUES
ARC DE FAILURE
STONE QUARRY
WISHFUL THINKING WELL
STREAM OF SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS
NO
SLIPPERY SLOPE
INSECURITY FENCE
POOL OF DOUBT

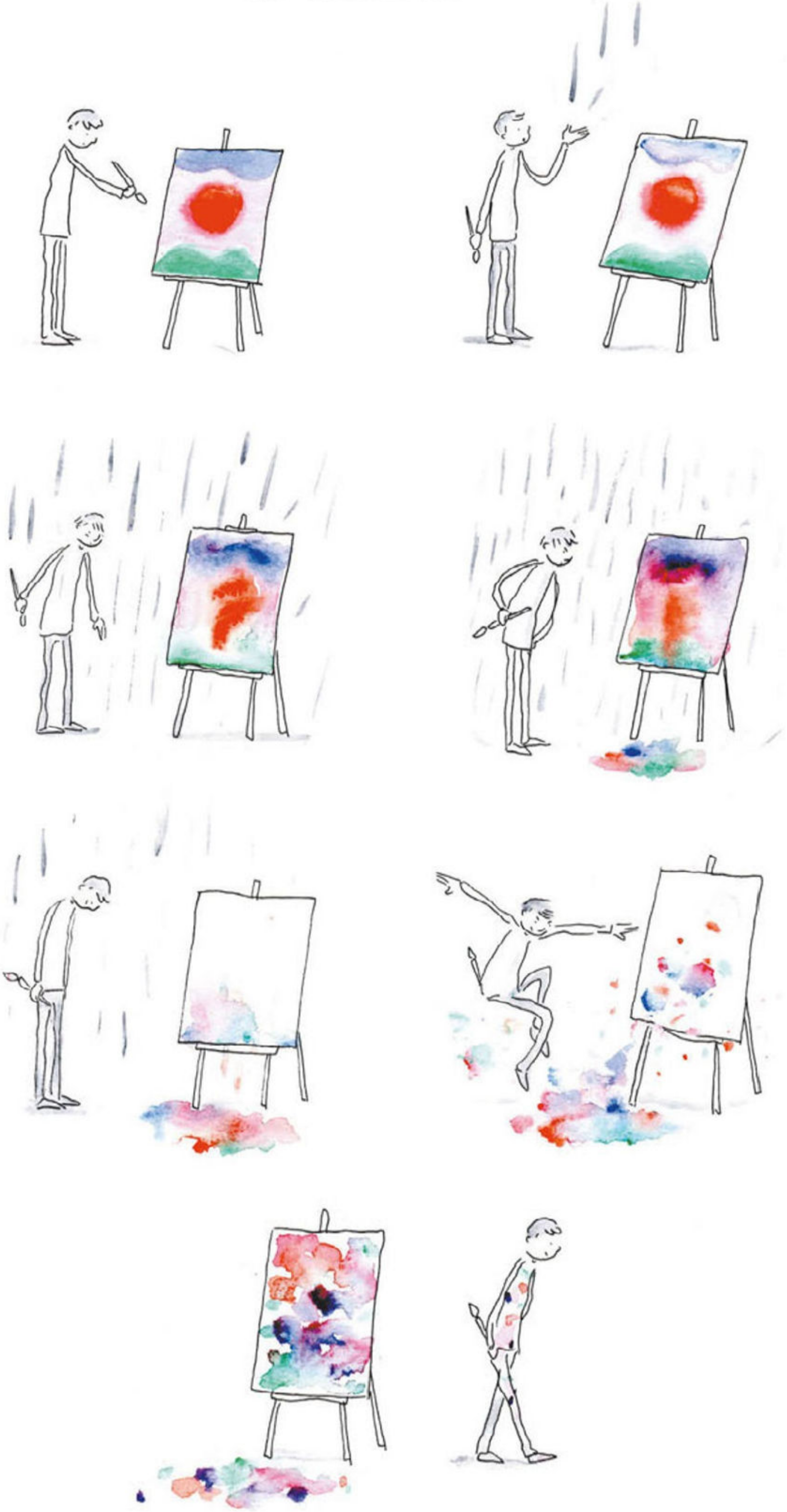

creative thinking
INSPIRATION
I SHOULD MAKE SOMETHING!
EVERYTHING WORTH MAKING HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE.
AMBITION
THIS IS IT! MY BIG BREAK!
DO I REALLY DESERVE THIS PROJECT?
FOCUS
THERE ARE TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS IN HERE.
MUCH BETTER.
@#%!


SELF-ESTEEM
I HAVE NO GOOD IDEAS, THEREFORE I AM A BAD PERSON.
ORIGINALITY
THIS IS A GREAT IDEA!
WHERE HAVE I SEEN IT BEFORE?
EXPERIENCE
THIS TIME I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
THIS TIME I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
THIS TIME I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
THIS TIME I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
THIS TIME I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
PERSISTENCE
FINISHED! IT'S PERFECT!
I WILL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER GOOD IDEA.



PURE ELATION

Watercolor



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PURE ELATION

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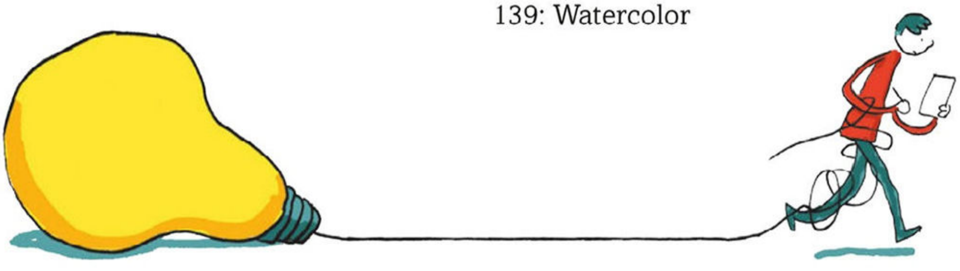
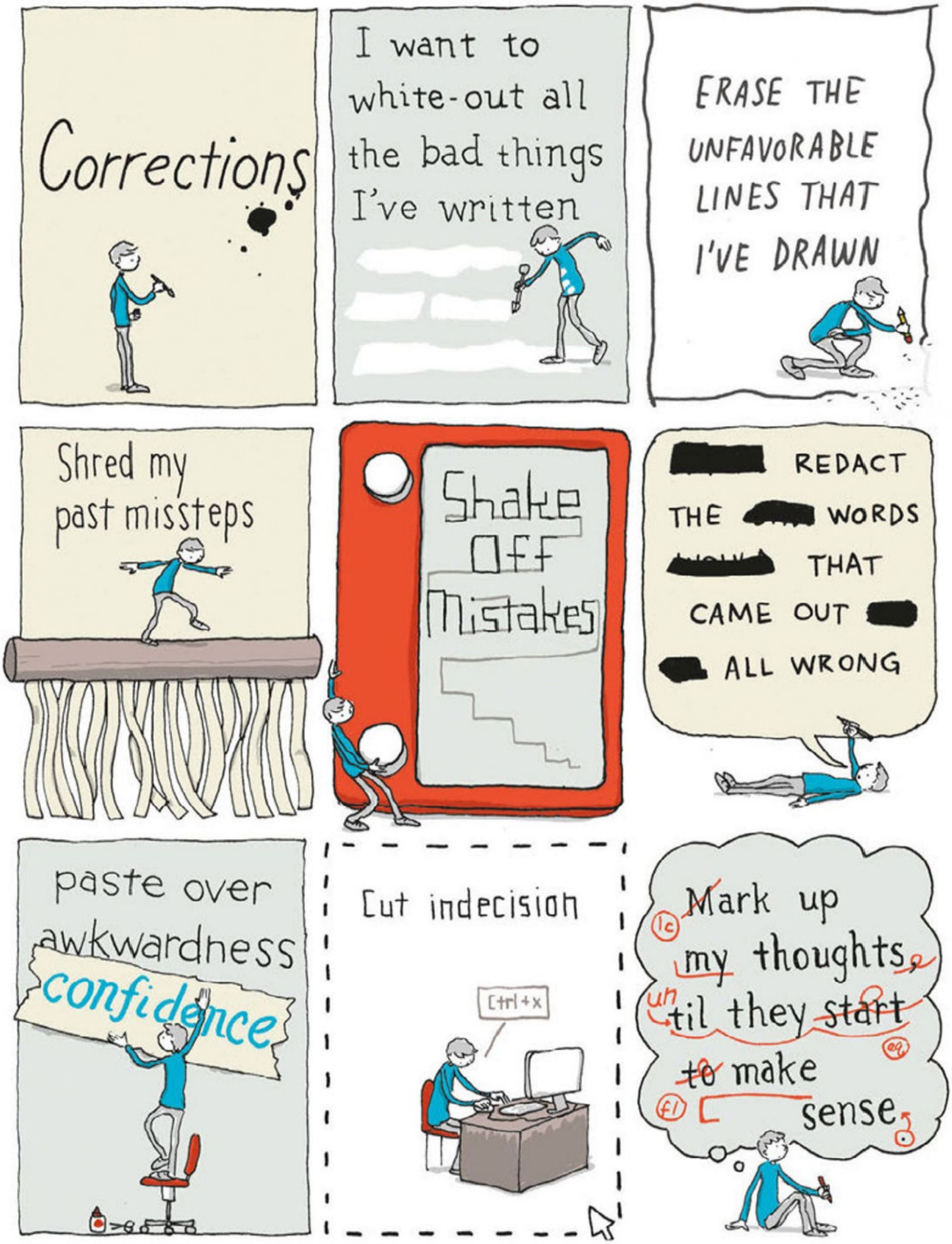
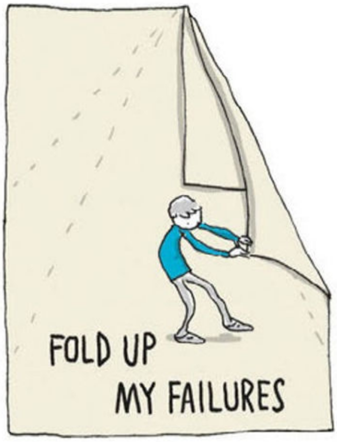
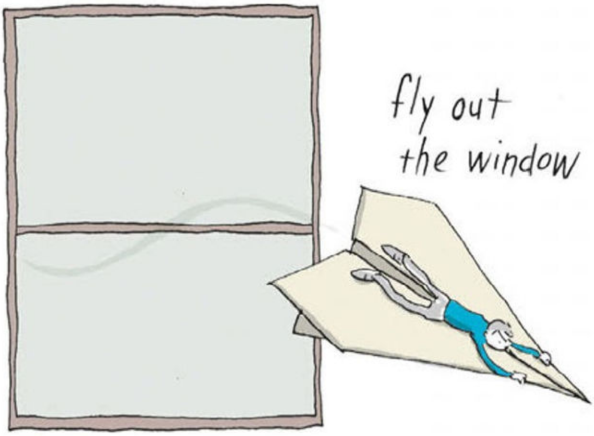
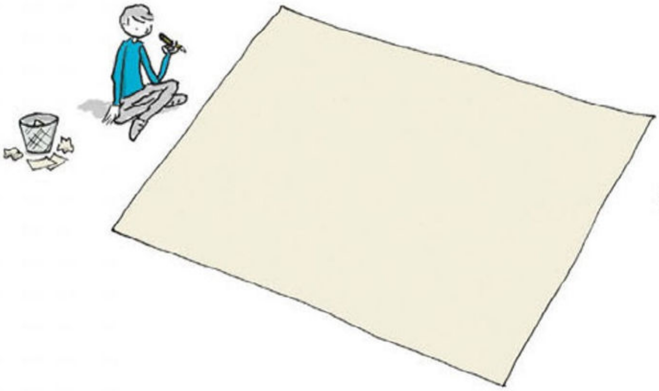
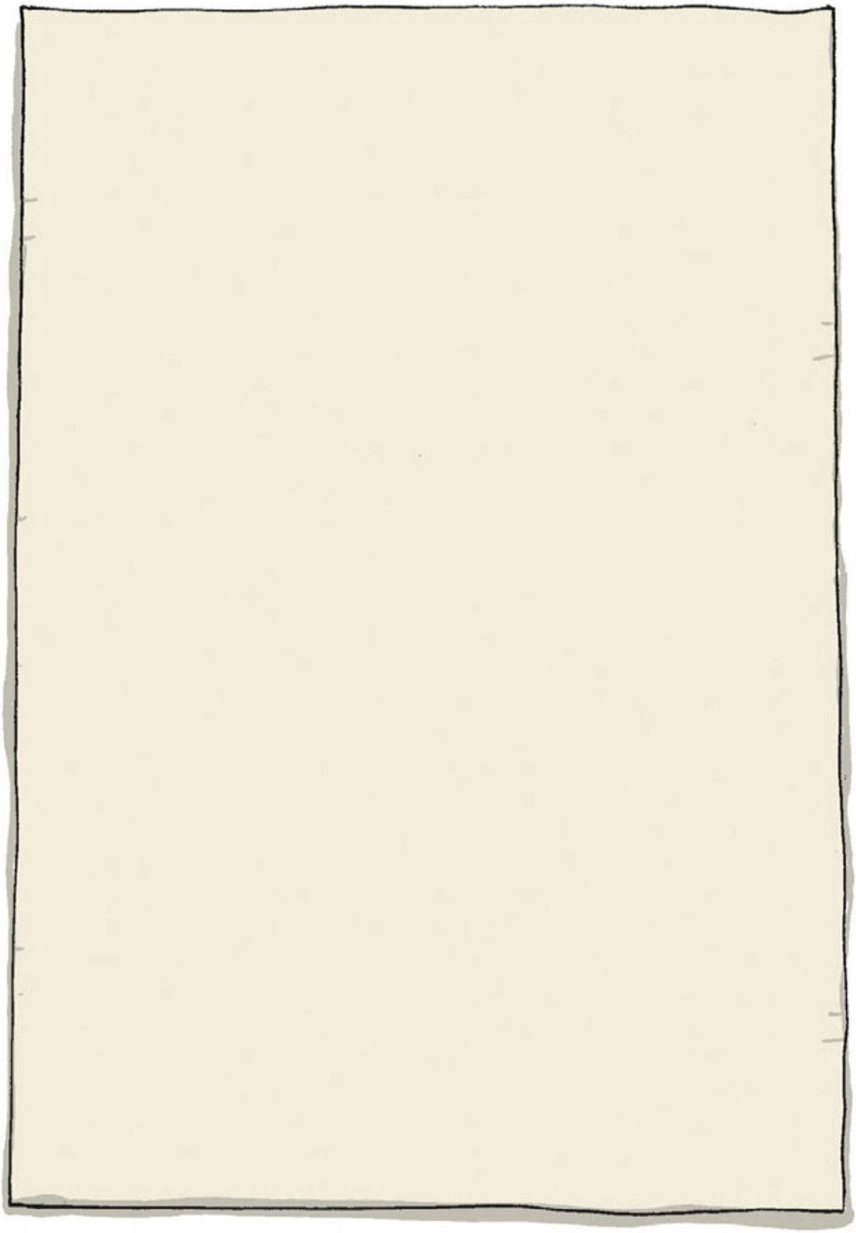



Corrections
I want to white-out all the bad things I've written
ERASE THE UNFAVORABLE LINES THAT I'VE DRAWN
Shred my past missteps
Shake Off Mistakes
[redacted] REDACT
THE [redacted] WORDS
[redacted] THAT
CAME OUT [redacted]
[redacted] ALL WRONG
paste over awkwardness
confidence
Cut indecision
Ctrl+x
Mark up
lc
my thoughts,
un
til they ~~start~~
eq
~~to~~ make
fl
sense


FOLD UP
MY FAILURES

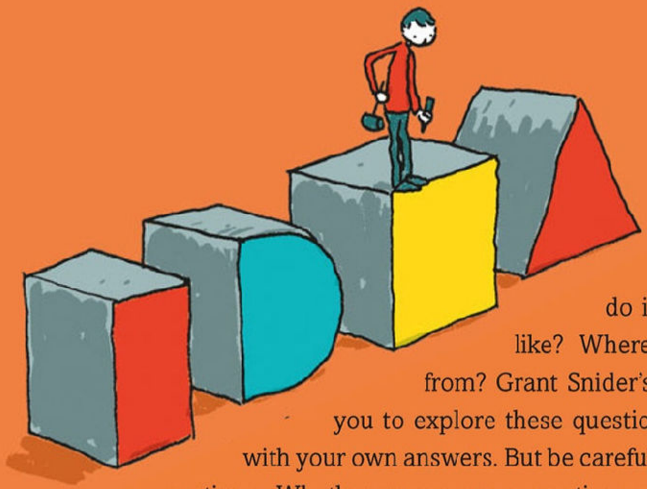

fly out
the window


take out
a blank
page and
start over
again.



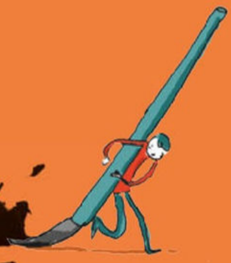
“Grant Snider’s work delivers introspection, humor, and inspiration in visually stunning drawings. They are a colorful look into the creative process—from the moments of quiet contemplation to the days of frenzied desperation.”

—**Susan Cain**, author of *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking*



What do ideas look like? Where do they come from? Grant Snider’s drawings will motivate you to explore these questions and inspire you to come up with your own answers. But be careful—they may prompt even more questions. Whether you are are a creative professional, a student, or a front-porch dreamer, this collection of comics will provide insight into the joys and frustrations of creativity, inspiration, and process—no matter your age or creative background.

Grant Snider is an orthodontist by day and an artist by night. His drawings have been featured in the *Kansas City Star*, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and *The Best American Comics 2013* anthology. He lives in Wichita, Kansas, with his wife, three children, and a constant deluge of ideas. Visit him online at incidentalcomics.com.



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